

The Perfect Storm



A sign on Interstate 295 northbound warns travelers of the impending Hurricane Irene Friday, Aug. 26, 2011, in New Castle, Del. Irene has the potential to cause billions of dollars in damage all along a densely populated arc that includes Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Boston and beyond. At least 65 million people could be affected. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

JENNIFER PELTZ
MICHAEL BIESECKER

Associated Press

MOREHEAD CITY, North Carolina (AP) — Tropical storm-force winds from Hurricane Irene began lashing the U.S. East Coast with rain Friday with the potential to cause billions of dollars in damage along a densely populated arc that included Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and Boston.

At least 65 million people could be affected. A hurricane warning was in effect from North Carolina all the way to Massachusetts — including for New York City, where more than a quarter-million people were ordered to evacuate ahead of Irene's approach. It was the first hurricane warning issued for New York City in more than two de-

cades.

Officials declared emergencies, called up hundreds of National Guard troops, shut down public transit systems and begged hundreds of thousands of people to obey evacuation orders. Airlines canceled more than 2,000 weekend flights.

The National Hurricane Center said the storm is unlikely to get any stronger and may weaken slightly before reaching land. It said Irene could weaken to a tropical storm before reaching the northern region of New England, but that even below hurricane strength it would be a powerful and potentially destructive storm.

Continued on Page 2



President Barack Obama, first lady Michelle Obama and their daughters Sasha and Malia walk from Marine One to board Air Force One, Friday, Aug. 26, 2011, at Cape Cod Coast Guard Air Station in Bourne, Mass., en route to Washington after a family vacation on Martha's Vineyard. Urging everyone in Hurricane Irene's path to get ready, President Barack Obama decided to cut his vacation short Friday and return to the White House for a storm he described as potentially historic. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)



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Irene swats East Coast

Continued from Front

As the storm's outermost bands of wind and rain began to lash islands off the coast of the southern state of North Carolina, authorities in points farther north begged people to get out of harm's way. The hurricane lost some strength but still packed 100 mph

projected path of this hurricane, you have to take precautions now."

Senior hurricane specialist Richard Pasch of the National Hurricane Center said there were signs that the hurricane may have weakened slightly, but strong winds continued to extend 100 miles (160 kilometers) from its center.



A boat on a trailer is covered by debris in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene on Cat Island in the Bahamas, Friday Aug. 26, 2011. Irene hit Cat Island Wednesday night. Workers cleaned up debris from Irene and shopkeepers started taking boards off their shops' windows Friday.

(AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

(160 kph) winds, and officials in the Northeast, not used to tropical weather, feared it could wreak devastation.

Speaking from Martha's Vineyard Island where he is vacationing, President Barack Obama said all indications point to the storm being a historic hurricane. "Don't wait.

Don't delay," said Obama, who decided to cut short his summer vacation by a day and return to Washington.

"I cannot stress this highly enough: If you are in the

The latest forecasts showed Irene crashing into the North Carolina coastline Saturday, then churning up the Eastern Seaboard and drenching areas from Virginia to New York City before a weakened storm reaches New England.

Rain and tropical storm-force winds of at least 39 mph (63 kph) already were pelting North and South Carolina as Irene trudged north, snapping power lines and flooding streets. Officials warned of dangerous rip currents as Irene roiled the surf. □

New York transit to shut down; evacuations set in low areas

JAMES BARRON

© 2011 New York Times

With Hurricane Irene pushing relentlessly toward the East Coast, officials announced plans to evacuate low-lying areas in New York City and shut down the subway and transit sys-

mayor said at a news conference, "and it's heading basically for us."

"If you're in its way," he said, "it's a lot more powerful than any of us."

Officials said the subway shutdown was prompted mainly by wind calcula-

would be closed if winds reached 60 mph for more than a short time.

Officials decided to go ahead with the transit shutdown, which they had first mentioned Thursday as a possibility at a City Hall briefing, as the city



New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, center, speaks at a press briefing urging citizens to take precaution before Hurricane Irene hits the area, in Albany, N.Y., Aug. 26, 2011. With Hurricane Irene pushing toward the East Coast, officials made plans to shut down the city's mass transit system on Saturday at noon, and the mayor ordered an evacuation of certain coastal areas. From left: Larry Schwartz, the governor's top aide, Cuomo and Lt. Gov. Robert Duffy.

(Nathaniel Brooks/The New York Times)

tem.

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg ordered a mandatory evacuation — something the city had never done before, he said — of coastal areas in Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island, along with Battery Park City and the financial district in Lower Manhattan and Governor's Island.

"You only have to look at the weather maps to understand how big this storm is and how unique it is," the

tions that suggested the hurricane could endanger subway cars where they run above ground.

The commuter rail lines that serve Long Island, Westchester County and Connecticut will also be shut down, and Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo said that a half dozen bridges — including the George Washington Bridge, the Robert F. Kennedy Triboro Bridge, the Throgs Neck Bridge and the Whitestone Bridge —

was evacuating hospitals and nursing homes in low-lying areas.

State officials continued arrangements for coordinating emergency services and restoring electricity if the storm does the kind of damage many fear. Some Atlantic City, N.J., casinos made plans to stop rolling the dice and turn off the slot machines by 8 p.m. Friday. □

A modern 'Odyssey':

Odysseus is parading into Queens

MELENA RYZIK

© 2011 New York Times

NEW YORK — Sing in me, Muse, and through me tell the story of Hermes the winged messenger, with eyes like binoculars. Of wise old Robert Moses, his head a literal globe, and of Typhoid Mary, a health threat in a skirt made of spoons. Odysseus has, finally, found his way to Queens, and — journeying through storm surge and eons of urban grit — has been transformed a bit in the process.

On Monday evening "The Odyssey" will be restaged through the lens of New York City history, using costumed characters and giant puppets, in a site-specific work commissioned for Socrates Sculpture Park in Queens. Visitors will play the part of weary Greek travelers, traversing the park to see seven "processionals" enacting stories from Homer's epic poem.

The one-night-only performance, "Odysseus at Hell Gate," was created by Alex Kahn and Sophia Mi-

include a walking opera and a three-act movement along a bridge, and as part of their mission, they use volunteers in the building ("puppet-raising") and performance of their works. Involving the community, they said, makes the pieces better.

"What we like to do is take that genre of parade that everybody knows, and try to deconstruct it," Kahn said. "We really see parade in the way that it is in carnivalesque cultures, as a real way of storytelling through multilayered, complex visuals."

For "Odysseus at Hell Gate," Kahn and Michahelles, a couple from Red Hook, N.Y., who are artistic directors of a nonprofit group called Processional Arts Workshop, researched the history of the sometimes forgotten spaces that dot the East River, like Hart Island, a potter's field; North Brother Island, home to the hospital that quarantined Typhoid Mary; and Hell Gate, a traditionally treacherous mari-

Welfare Island; it housed a women's prison, "and the two most famous inmates who spent some time there were Mae West and Billie Holiday, so we thought

beckoning, "Come up and see me sometime."

Some juxtapositions are more conceptual: Moses, the influential urban planner, plays a part because

geared to adults instead of children; in the week leading up to the performance, Michahelles and Kahn hosted a puppet workshop for volunteers.



Alex Kahn, an artist who specializes in processions and puppetry, inspects the Acheron puppet during a showcase at Socrates Sculpture Park in New York, Aug. 25, 2011. On Monday evening, Homer's epic, "The Odyssey," will be re-staged as "Odysseus at Hell Gate," through the lens of New York City history, using costumed characters and giant puppets, in a site-specific work commissioned for Socrates Sculpture Park.

(Guy Calaf/The New York Times)



Sophia Michahelles, an artist who specializes in processions and puppetry, inspects wings to be mounted on a Mae West-inspired puppet for the production of "Odysseus at Hell Gate," at Socrates Sculpture Park in New York, Aug. 25, 2011. On Monday evening, Homer's epic, "The Odyssey," will be re-staged as "Odysseus at Hell Gate," through the lens of New York City history, using costumed characters and giant puppets, in a site-specific work commissioned for Socrates Sculpture Park.

(Guy Calaf/The New York Times)

chahelles, artists who specialize in processions, parades and puppetry: they also create the Day of the Dead skeletons and Kabuki flying baby moths, among other creatures, for New York City's Halloween parade. Their other projects

time passage and the site of the 1904 burning of the excursion ship the General Slocum. They found many parallels in these stories to those in "the Odyssey." Roosevelt Island, which is visible from the sculpture park, was once known as

they would be fantastic sirens," Michahelles said with a smile. There are no siren songs per se, but a score that Kahn composed includes a Billie Holiday recording of "Comes Love (Nothing Can Be Done)," interspersed with Mae West

of Randalls Island, where he had his office when he was the state parks commissioner and chairman of the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority.

He is represented by a Cyclops-like creature because, Kahn said, Homer's "description of the Cyclops could've been lifted right out of Robert Caro's 'Power Broker,'" the biography of Moses. (Of course the head of this Cyclops looks like the Unisphere from the 1964 World's Fair in Queens; a silver-painted Hermes has a head resembling the kind of viewfinder found at landmarks.)

Shaun Leonardo, the director of public programs and community affairs for Socrates Sculpture Park, a 4 1/2-acre strip of riverfront that hosts everything from

sustainable-living lessons to movie screenings among its rotating installations, said park officials originally envisioned the Odysseus project as an extension of their regular programs, but

But the scope of their ideas "was more than we would ever have expected," Leonardo said. "It will be one of our biggest programs."

He added that "Odysseus at Hell Gate" served an "important goal here, to open the understanding of what sculpture is, and to introduce different ideas of sculpture and sculpture making to the park."

Built by volunteers with supplies donated by Materials for the Arts, a nonprofit group, the whole project cost less than \$10,000, Leonardo said. Drawn by the chance to be creative in his time off, Mike Russell, a teacher, volunteered a few days before the show, and found himself papier-mâché-ing Typhoid Mary's head.

"This is my neighborhood, this is my park," Russell, 33, said, explaining why he wanted to get involved. Whatever he learned would make its way into his classroom, he added. □

10 years after 9/11, 1 family fights on in court



The skyscraper called Four World Trade Center, center, is seen above the September 11 Memorial and Museum, bottom center, Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2011 in New York. Developer Larry Silverstein is constructing Four WTC and two additional towers at the site.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

JIMMY GOLEN,
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON, Massachusetts (AP) —

Nineteen hijackers died on their Sept. 11, 2001, suicide mission. Al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden was killed by Navy Seals and buried at sea four months ago. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind of the attacks, and a handful of his henchmen are in custody at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Mary Bavis believes there remain still more to blame for the death of her son Mark, more who have not been punished, or held accountable, or even publicly identified. In a wrongful death lawsuit due for trial in November, Bavis accuses United Airlines and the security firm Huntleigh USA Corp. of negligence for failing to keep the planes safe. Ninety-four others also sued, forgoing the chance for a quick payout from a \$7 billion victim compensation fund. Ninety-four others also sued and have all settled.

Mary Bavis will not.

"People say, 'Move on.' But it's hard to move on because we never got any answers. I just can't understand how those people even

got on that plane," she said in an interview with The Associated Press as she approached the 10th anniversary of the attacks that killed her son, a scout for the National Hockey League's Los Angeles Kings.

"A lot of people from 9/11 are behind us. They come up to me, and they say, 'We're sorry we didn't go through with the fight.'"

Mike Bavis, Mark's identical twin, said that if his family's case is unique, it is largely because his brother was not a breadwinner with survivors needing immediate help. "If my brother was a husband with five kids, do you think the wife and five kids could afford to wait 10 years to get compensation?" said Mike, who is now 41. "The process eliminated people pretty quickly." The Bavises will not settle because they are determined to drag into the public record an explanation of how airline security failed on Sept. 11. (Airlines were responsible for pre-board passenger screening before 9/11 prompted the creation of the Transportation Security Administration).

Their attorney, Don Migliori, has amassed 200 depositions and millions of pages describing what

went wrong. The family wants them donated to the Sept. 11 museum being built at ground zero — or at least become part of the public record. But many are sealed in the interest of security.

"There are so many things that we've gathered that need sunshine," Migliori said.

There were 2,977 people killed in the Sept. 11 attacks. The Victim Compensation Fund handled 2,880 claims from those left behind — and another 2,680 from those injured. In all, the fund's special master, Kenneth Feinberg, doled out \$7.049 billion in taxpayer money.

The Bavises are the only of the 95 families who sued who remain in a federal court in Manhattan. Their trial is set to start Nov. 7. U.S. District Judge Alvin Hellerstein dismissed the Massachusetts Port Authority, which runs Logan International Airport, as a defendant from the lawsuit. "This was a tragic event, and we are actively working to resolve this case," United spokeswoman Megan McCarthy said in a statement emailed to the AP.

There will be no settlement, Mike Bavis said, until there is accountability for his brother's death.

"He's fighting this as if somebody attacked him," Migliori said. "Try to imagine half of yourself being gone."

Like so many New England boys, Mark and Mike Bavis learned to skate by pushing a chair for balance, then followed a progression through Mites and Squirts and Pee Wees and Bantams, shooting at a net on the driveway when ice wasn't available. Their father, a Boston policeman who died in 1991, used to call them his bookends.

"The one thing about being a twin and being in sports — you didn't have to coordinate anything. You just have to walk out the back door," said Mike, who was born 10 minutes before Mark. "You may not know it at the time, but it was pretty cool."

They won three high school state championships at Catholic Memorial, and there was more success at BU: Four straight trips to the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament, three titles in the Beanpot tournament among the Boston-area hockey powers, and an appearance in the 1991 national championship game. □

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Biographer:

Strauss-Kahn relieved to have passport



Demonstrators chant and hold signs outside the Manhattan state Supreme Court in New York.

JEFFREY SCHAEFFER

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The return of his passport had great symbolic importance for Dominique Strauss-Kahn, his biographer said Friday, and the former IMF chief would likely use it soon to return home to France but was unlikely to throw himself back into politics there. Strauss-Kahn was once considered the front-runner to be France's next president, until he was accused of attempting to rape a maid at a pricey New York hotel in May.

In the wake of that accusation, he was forced to relinquish his prestigious post at the International Monetary Fund, spent nearly a week behind bars, paid potentially hundreds of thousands on house arrest and missed a deadline to declare his presidential candidacy. This week, his fortunes

(AP Photo/John Minchillo)

changed: Prosecutors dropped the charges against him, saying they weren't sure they could build a case after calling into question his accuser's credibility. Though evidence showed Strauss-Kahn had a sexual encounter with Nafissatou Diallo, prosecutors said the accuser was not credible because of lies she has told, including an earlier false rape claim.

In an interview with The Associated Press on Friday, Michel Taubmann, who visited Strauss-Kahn a day earlier, said he was not a broken man.

"This is a man who has suffered. It is a man who will obviously take a long time to get himself together," said Taubmann, who is the author of "The True Story of Dominique Strauss-Kahn." "So this is a man very disappointed but not a broken man."

Taubmann said the return of his passport — which Strauss-Kahn got back Thursday — was very significant since he was used to being engaged with the world at the IMF.

Strauss-Kahn had been staying in a town house in New York while prosecutors tried to build a case against him, but it is thought he will

now return to Washington, where the IMF is based and he and his wife have a home.

The next step is likely to be a return to France, Taubmann said.

But he added, "I don't see Dominique Strauss-Kahn retaking the path of his life where it was broken and returning to France to

launch himself in the political battle."

Strauss-Kahn still faces a civil suit from Diallo, and a French author, Tristane Banon, has filed a criminal complaint in France, accusing him of trying to rape her in 2002.

The Paris prosecutor's office is still investigating that accusation. □

New approach to the law

ADAM LIPTAK

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WASHINGTON — There is a place for alarmism when threats to civil liberties are concerned. Too much worry about our freedoms is better than too little, particularly in the face of a government shrouded in wartime secrecy after the Sept. 11 attacks. But there is also a place, a decade later, for sober reflection. By historic standards, the domestic legal response to 9/11 gave rise to civil liberties tremors, not earthquakes. And even those changes were largely a result of reordered law enforcement priorities rather than fundamental shifts in the law. Consider the USA Patriot Act, which was short for this Orwellian mouthful: Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001. The law, more than 300 pages long, sailed



The entrance to Camp Delta at the U.S. Naval base in Guantanamo, Cuba.

(Richard Perry/The New York Times)

through Congress seven weeks after the attacks with scant dissent. It quickly became a sort of shorthand for government abuse and overreaching. The Patriot Act undeniably expanded the government's surveillance powers and the scope of some criminal laws. But this was, in truth,

tinkering at the margins and nothing compared with the responses of other developed democracies, where preventive detention and limitations on subversive speech became commonplace. "In comparative perspective, the Patriot Act appears mundane and mild," □

US teen in custody in Jihad Jane plot

MARYCLAIRE DALE

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A U.S. teenager from Pakistan is being held on terrorism charges, accused of soliciting funds and recruits to help a Pennsylvania woman known as Jihad Jane, two people close to the investigation confirm.

Juvenile charges filed last month accuse the 17-year-old of helping Colleen LaRose support overseas terrorists she had met online, they said Friday. LaRose, 48, has pleaded guilty to charges she plotted to kill a Swedish artist who had offended Muslims. The Maryland teen had accepted a full scholarship to prestigious Johns Hopkins University, according to a person close to his family. Instead, he remains in custody at a youth facility in Pennsylvania. He could have his case moved to adult court when he turns 18 next month.

According to the person, the FBI searched the family's home near Baltimore and interviewed the teen several times at FBI head-

quarters without a lawyer or family member present. However, the parents had authorized the interviews. The teen met LaRose online when he was 15, according to the person close to the investigation and LaRose's

indictment. A law enforcement official confirmed details of his arrest to The Associated Press. Both people spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak publicly



This June 26, 1997 file booking photo provided by the Tom Green County Jail in San Angelo, Texas, shows Colleen R. LaRose, also known as Jihad Jane. A U.S. teen from Pakistan is in secret U.S. custody, accused of trying to help recruit terrorists for LaRose according to a source close to the family.

(AP Photo/Tom Green County Jail, File)

about the sealed juvenile case. The AP is not publicizing the teen's name because of his age.

The teen's lawyer, Jeffrey M. Lindy, told the AP

it would be "very inappropriate" for him to comment on the case, which he called "highly sensitive."

The Philadelphia Inquirer first reported on the arrest in Friday editions.

The teen came to the U.S. four years ago and has lived with his strict, education-focused family in suburban Baltimore. An older brother attends a college honors program in engineering.

The parents, legal residents, work menial jobs.

Teachers at Mt. Hebron High School remember the May graduate for his strong work ethic.

"(He) was very strong academically and an extremely hardworking student," Howard County school district spokeswoman Patti Caplan told the AP.

The teen is accused of meeting LaRose in an online chat room in 2009.

Her indictment alleges that he solicited money for her online and circulated a questionnaire to at least one woman asking about "her beliefs and intentions with regard to jihad," and if she had a European passport.

In soliciting funds, he pledged to forward money to LaRose, for her to pass on to the jihadists, authorities say. □

US dad who helped son flee to Mexico sentenced

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (AP) — A 78-year-old U.S. man who helped his son flee to Mexico after a murder conviction and sent him money has been sentenced to six months behind bars.

Frederick Zachs was sentenced Friday in federal court in Connecticut. He pleaded guilty in June to harboring a fugitive but asked to be spared prison time, citing his fragile health.

Federal prosecutors had said he should be locked up for six months for helping his 48-year-old fugitive son, Adam Zachs, flee after being convicted in 1988 of fatally shooting a man outside a West Hartford restaurant. They say he contributed to the suffering of the victim's family.

Adam Zachs denied the charges against him. He posted a \$250,000 appeal bond and vanished. He was arrested in February about a five-hour drive northwest of Mexico City. □

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Officials focus on organized crime's link in casino attack

RANDAL C. ARCHIBOLD
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MEXICO CITY – An arson attack on a casino in northern Mexico on Thursday that left 52 people dead has thrown a spotlight on the growth of gambling houses and their role in organized crime.

In what President Felipe Calderon called an act of "true terrorists," armed men in four vehicles – a Mini Cooper leading sport utility vehicles and a pickup truck – calmly drove up to the Casino Royale in Monterrey at midafternoon, dashed inside, ordered people to get out and set it ablaze with a flammable liquid.

The flash fire engulfed the gaming hall, trapping patrons scrambling for the few exits and hiding in bathrooms. The toll was among the highest for a single attack since a government crackdown on organized crime began in 2006 and infighting among gangs unleashed an explosion of violence that has left more than 35,000 dead.

Although no motive has been determined, it bore the hallmarks of an organized crime assault, and government officials and security analysts said the brutality suggested the work of the Zetas, one of the largest and most feared gangs in the area.

On Friday, Calderon and, in a statement, President Barack Obama cast the disaster as related to the drug war. Calderon, in a departure from past mass killings, labeled the attack terrorism.

for life," Calderon said, his voice tinged with anger. He went on to scold the Mexican Congress for not enacting security reforms he has proposed, and the United States, which he called an ally, but one

ity," he said. Obama released a brief statement condemning "the barbaric and reprehensible attack," adding, "We share with Mexico responsibility for meeting this challenge, and we are

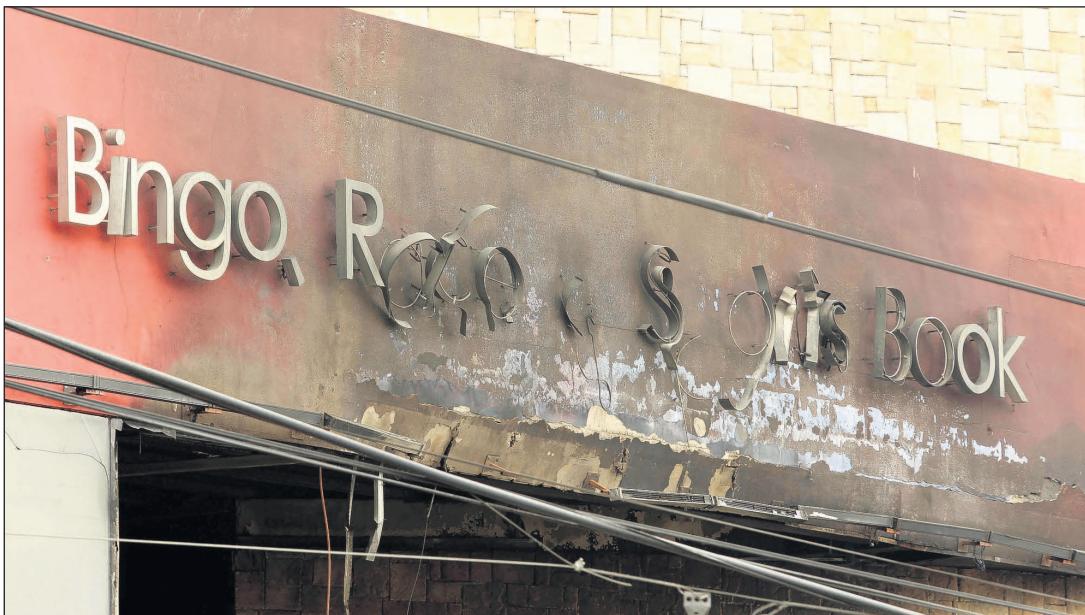
more accurately, such gaming houses are technically prohibited by law. But sports betting, bingo and electronic games are permitted, and many entertainment businesses fashion themselves as casinos, lit garishly outside and dimly inside, while illegal betting parlors operate in the shadows, according to security analysts.

A lot of money flows through such casinos, making tempting targets for organized crime groups, which extort them or launder money through them, the analysts said.

The national magazine Proceso reported in June that both legal and illegal gambling businesses had grown to nearly 800 this year, from just more than 100 in 2000.

In Nuevo Leon state, where Monterrey is, the number of businesses climbed to 57 this year from five a decade ago.

Raul Benitez-Manaut, a researcher at the National Autonomous University in Mexico City who studies criminal groups, said such gambling halls are typically small, sometimes informal places but have become a magnet for extortionists and money launderers. □



The Casino Royale sign that once read "Bingo, Race & Sports Book" is charred from the deadly arson assault in Monterrey, Mexico, Friday Aug. 26, 2011. Mexican officials say a group of at least eight assailants poured gasoline inside the casino on Thursday, trapping dozens of people inside and killing at least 52 people. Mexico's President Felipe Calderon declared three days of mourning Friday for the 52 victims of the casino fire set by presumed drug traffickers, branding the attackers "true terrorists" and ordering authorities to offer a \$2.4 million reward for their capture.

(AP Photo/Hans-Maximo Musielik)

"It is evident we are not facing common criminals, we are facing true terrorists who have surpassed not only the limits of the law but basic common sense and respect

whose drug consumption and gun sales have exacerbated the problem in Mexico.

"We are neighbors, we are allies, we are friends, but you, too, share responsibil-

committed to continuing our unprecedented cooperation in confronting these criminal organizations."

Mexico does not have Las Vegas-style gambling, or,

Indulgence by the Sea Salon is happy to announce, the new stock of Shellac is in



ORANJESTAD – Indulgence by the Sea Salon, located at the Tamarijn All Inclusive Beach Resort has recently introduced Shellac, a revolutionary nail color.

The product was developed in the USA by CND, and launched in the international market just recently. Astoundingly, Shellac, which goes on like nail polish, wears like gel and removes in minutes, allows a 14-day wear with a mirror finish, zero dry time, and no nail damage.

No wonder women around the globe welcomed it enthusiastically, overwhelm-

ing the manufacturers, who were unprepared for the amazing reception.

In Aruba, when Indulgence by the Sea Salon introduced Shellac it was an instant success. The salon has always offered the best manicures & pedicures in the Caribbean, but with Shellac its popularity went sky-high, and then supplies dwindled.

Salon owner Angie Wallace, who runs the Full Service Salon at the Tamarijn, and its sister Indulgence by the Sea Spa, at the Divi All Inclusive Beach Resort, reports supplies are in, and

the salons are now fully stocked with Shellac in all colors and shades, including all nail treatments.

The new Shellac nail colors complement the luxurious manicures and pedicures offered which include Rose Petal Soaks, Organic Sugar Exfoliations, Rose Enzyme Organic Masks, Aromatherapy Paraffin Dips, and melt-away-from-it-all massages with deeply hydrating rose oil on arms, hands, lower legs and feet, for the ultimate in graceful hands and feet treatment.

With ample convenient parking and easy access --

the door of the salon opens directly into the parking lot, Indulgence by the Sea also offers an Organic Natural Makeup Line, a private label especially designed for weddings and special occasions in a tropical climate. The Salon's Hair Studio menu is extensive and includes Shampoo, Blow Dry, Cuts, Formal Finishing, Damage Remedy, Highlights as well as Kerastase Masks. Bridal Parties will find the salon especially accommodating, preparing brides, grooms and family members for the Big Day or for

the exciting Rehearsal Party.

Indulgence by the Sea serves complimentary wine, mimosas, coffee, and tea to all customers.

Pictures here from left to right are, Robyn Brete, Therapist and Nail Technician, Brigitte Pisciotti, Stylist and Nail Technician, Omaria Luz, Stylist and Nail Technician, Gwen Jie-Sam-Foek, Spa Director, Angie Wallace, Owner, Sharithée Giel, Nail Technician, Yolanda Angel, Stylist and Nail Technician. Indulgence by the Sea Salon is open 7 days a week from 9am-6pm. □



Aruhiba, The 1 and Only Homemade Aruban Cigar



ORANJESTAD – Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is



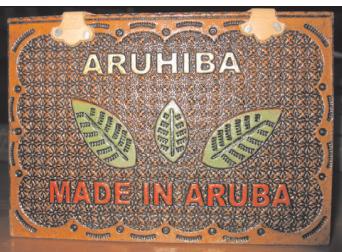
specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

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Russia introduces resolution on Syria

ANITA SNOW

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Russia introduced a rival U.N. resolution on Syria that called Friday for Bashar Assad's government to halt its violence against protesters and expedite reforms, but made no mention of the sanctions sought by the U.S. and European nations.

Envoy for Britain and Germany said they welcomed Russia's decision to seek any Security Council action on Syria.

But they said Russia's proposed resolution was weaker than the statement the group had issued earlier this month on the Syrian government's violent crackdown on the opposition.

"This is a situation where continued activity by the Security Council might be helpful, if it is pushing the parties in the right direction," Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said.

Russia's draft resolution calls on the Syrian government to "expedite the

implementation of the announced reforms in order to effectively address the legitimate aspirations and concerns of Syria's people."

The Russian draft calls for an immediate end to all violence, stresses that the only solution to the current crisis is "an inclusive and Syrian-led political process," and urges the opposition to engage in political dialogue with the government.

Churkin circulated the proposal Friday, two days after strongly hinting that Russia would veto a U.S. and European-backed resolution calling for an arms embargo on Syria and the freezing of assets against Assad and key supporters of his regime. The stronger resolution backed by the Britain, France, Germany, Portugal and the U.S. was circulated on Tuesday.

Churkin told reporters that "a very important envoy from Moscow" will travel to Damascus on Aug. 29.

British Deputy Ambassador Philip Parham said Russia's backing of any resolution on Syria was a "good

thing," but "the question, of course is what the resolution should say."

"We want to gain consensus on something that will really get us moving in the right direction," Parham said, expressing hope that council members could reach a compromise. German Deputy Ambassador Miguel Berger said, "We welcome that Russia and China think that a resolution is needed to react to the situation in Syria."

But the text, he said, "is far from what we would like to see in such a resolution."

"The regime's violence has continued unabated, the international condemnation has grown louder, and the Security Council's response should reflect those realities," said Mark Kornblau, spokesman for the U.S. Mission. "The draft resolution that we have put forward is the right basis for this response."

That earlier proposal calls for freezing the assets of 23 key Syrian figures including Assad, his younger brother, Maher, who is believed

to be in command of much of the current bloody crackdown, and his millionaire cousin, Rami Makhlouf, who controls the mobile phone network and other lucrative enterprises in Syria and has been the target of many protesters' rage.

It also calls for an asset freeze against two companies controlled by Makhlouf — Bena Properties and Al Mashreq Investment — and the Military Housing Establishment and Syrian General Intelligence Directorate. The resolution would also impose a travel ban on 21 individuals including Makhlouf, but not Assad or his younger brother.

The earlier draft resolution also "strongly condemns the continued grave and systematic human rights violations by the Syrian authorities, such as arbitrary executions, excessive use of force and the killing and persecution of protesters and human rights defenders, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, torture and ill-treatment of detainees, also of children." □

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UN headquarters car bombing in Nigeria kills 18

BASHIR ADIGUN

JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — A car loaded with explosives crashed into the main United Nations' building in Nigeria's capital and exploded Friday, killing at least 18 people in one of the deadliest assaults on the international body in a decade. A radical Muslim sect blamed for a series of attacks in the country claimed responsibility for the bombing, a major escalation of its sectarian fight against Nigeria's weak central government.

The brazen assault in a neighborhood surrounded by heavily fortified diplomatic posts represented the first suicide attack to target foreigners in oil-rich Nigeria, where people already live in fear of the radical Boko Haram sect. The group, which has reported links to al-Qaida, wants to implement a strict version of Shariah law in the nation and is vehemently opposed to Western education and culture.

While police officers and local officials have primarily borne the brunt of Boko Haram's rage, now everyone seems to be a target in a nation often divided by religion and ethnicity.

"It is an attack on the global community," said Viola Onwuliri, a junior Nigerian foreign minister, as she looked at the bomb site.

A sedan loaded with explosives crashed through two gates at the exit of the United Nations compound Friday morning as guards tried in vain to stop it, witnesses told The Associated Press. The suicide bomber inside drove the car through the glass front of the main reception area of the building and detonat-

ed the explosives, inflicting the most damage possible, a spokesman for the Nigerian National Emergency

to helping others."

"We condemn this terrible act, utterly," Ban told reporters at U.N. headquar-



Nigerian policemen patrol the site of a large explosion attack on the United Nations' building after a car blew up in Abuja, Nigeria, Friday, Aug 26, 2011. A car laden with explosives rammed through two gates and blew up at the United Nations' offices in Nigeria's capital Friday, killing at least 16 people and shattering part of the concrete structure. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called it "an assault on those who devote their lives to helping others".

(AP Photo/Sunday Alamba)

Management Agency said. "I saw scattered bodies," said Michael Ofilaje, a UNICEF worker at the four-story building, which he said shook with the explosion.

"Many people are dead." At least 18 people died in the attack, according to an AP survey of morgues at four major Abuja hospitals. Nigerian Health Minister Mohammad Ali Pate made a public appeal for blood donations, saying there were at least 60 injured people alone at the nearby National Hospital.

The headquarters, known as U.N. House, had offices for about 400 employees working for 26 U.N. humanitarian and development agencies. Authorities worked Friday to account for everyone in the building at the time of the blast.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called the car bombing "an assault on those who devote their lives

ters. "We do not yet have precise casualty figures but they are likely to be considerable. A number of people are dead; many more are wounded."

The U.N. Security Council condemned the attack in "the strongest possible terms" and characterized it as a "heinous crime," while U.N. General Assembly President Joseph Deiss called it "a great loss for the United Nations family."

Anthony Lake, Executive Director of the U.N. children's agency UNICEF, said it was a reminder of the courage of aid workers "who face similar dangers and who are doing so much for so many around the world."

Said Djinnit, the special representative of the U.N. secretary-general for West Africa, told the AP that he expects the casualties are mostly local staff.

The attack was one of the deadliest attacks on the

United Nations in a decade. Seventeen U.N. civilian staff members were killed along with dozens of others in two terrorist car bombings that targeted U.N. and other premises in Algiers on Dec. 11, 2007.

Friday's bombing also came just days after the U.N. marked the eighth anniversary of the Aug. 19, 2003 bombing of U.N. headquarters in Baghdad that killed 15 U.N. staff including top envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello and seven others.

The attack was also condemned by leaders around the world and members of the U.N. Security Council who individually deplored the targeting of the U.N. at an open meeting on U.N. peacekeeping.

U.S. President Barack Obama called the attack "horrific and cowardly" and expressed strong support for the U.N.'s work.

"The people who serve the United Nations do so with a simple purpose: to try to improve the lives of their neighbors and promote the values on which the U.N. was founded — dignity, freedom, security, and peace," Obama said in a statement. "An attack on Nigerian and international public servants demonstrates the bankruptcy of the ideology that led to this heinous action."

The explosion punched a huge hole in the building, located in the same neighborhood as the U.S. embassy and other diplomatic posts in Abuja. □

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New numbers, and geography, for gay couples

SABRINA TAVERNISE

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REHOBOTH BEACH, Del. — So much for San Francisco. The list of top cities for same-sex couples as a portion of the population does not include that traditional gay mecca, according to new census data. In fact, the city, which ranked third in 1990 and 11th in 2000, plummeted to No. 28 in 2010. And West Hollywood, once No. 1, has dropped out of the top five.

The Census Bureau data, finalized this week and analyzed by Gary Gates, a demographer at the Williams Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles, gives the clearest picture to date of same-sex couples in America. In absolute numbers, they jumped by half in the past decade, to 901,997.

Most surprising is how far same-sex couples have dispersed, moving from traditional enclaves and safe havens into farther-flung areas. Consider, for example, the upstarts on the list: Pleasant Ridge, Mich., a suburb of Detroit; New Hope, Pa.; and this beach town in southern Delaware. All three have been popular destinations for gay people locally but had never ranked in the top 10. The No. 1-ranked town is Provincetown, Mass., at the tip of Cape Cod.

The reordering reflects a growing influence of baby boomers, who became adults in the 1960s and 1970s, when the social stigma was starting to ease, and are more willing than previous generations to stand up and be counted, Gates said.

Now that generation, arguably the first in history with such a large contingent that is out, is beginning to retire, and its life transition is showing up in the data, with older cities as the new popular choices. "As the baby boomer generation ages into retirement," Gates said, "we see its impact really strongly in the geography."

The pattern was in evidence in Rehoboth Beach, a family resort town of

1,300, which was fourth on the list of same-sex couples per capita and did not figure in the top 10 rankings in 1990 or 2000.

"The change was pretty dramatic," said Rick McReynolds, 58, a resident. "It used to be all these boys," but now, he said, the gay population in town is older and has less of a singles scene.

But people who used to party here, like Bob Moore, a retired communications professor from Pennsylvania, have since returned with their partners to live. Moore, who came out in his 40s, after two children and a divorce, said he and his partner were looking for a place that was gay friendly, but not an exclusive enclave.

"We liked the fact that it was gay without being the Castro" neighborhood of San Francisco, said Moore, 59, who was sitting with his partner, Steve Ortleib, in Rigby's Bar and Grill on Tuesday night.

He said they had visited four top retirement destinations for same-sex couples — two in California and two in



From left: Two couples, Jon Blackman and Frank Pileggi, and Bob Moore and Steve Ortleib, at Finbar's Pub and Grill in Rehoboth Beach, Del., Aug. 23, 2011. According to new census data, same-sex couples have moved from traditional enclaves and safe havens into farther-flung areas of the country.

(Monica Lopossay/The New York Times)

old hairstylist who works on Castro Street. "In urban areas we wait longer to settle down. I've been single for two years. They're not counting those of us who are single." Of the top cities like Pleasant Ridge, Meinzer said: "I've never even heard

census asked me about it." Last year was the third time the Census Bureau counted same-sex couples. The count included people of the same sex in the same household who said they were spouses or unmarried partners (spouses were not included in 1990). Gates calculated how many same-sex couples there were for every 1,000 households within towns and cities across the country.

New York is too big to figure prominently in top city rankings for same-sex couples per capita (New York was 67th in 2010, Gates said), but it does rank by county, alongside more the more traditional locations. New York County is No. 5, after San Francisco County, Hampshire County, Mass., Monroe County, Fla., and Multnomah County, Ore.

The city ranking is a barometer of the changing demographics among the population of same sex couples, which has grown more diffuse throughout the country over the past 20 years.

In interviews here this week, several couples said that social attitudes had softened over time and that living farther afield was now easier to do. Gates compared the phenomenon to

immigrants who no longer sought the safety of an enclave.

Steve Elkins, who runs a nonprofit community center called Camp Rehoboth, which acts as a liaison with the gay community, said cultural training classes for the summer police force would be met by stony stares in the early days. More recently, when he asked the police officers if they knew a gay person, two people in the class raised their hands to say they were gay.

"It's a generational change in thoughts and attitudes," he said. Rehoboth, he likes to say, used to be an island of tolerance in a sea of homophobia and now is an island of tolerance in a sea of outlet malls.

Further evidence, Elkins said, was the quick passage of a civil unions bill that is set to take effect in Delaware on Jan. 1.

Couples who were part of the pre-boomer generation said it had been all but impossible for them to come out. Michael Davis, 69, a retired intelligence officer who moved to Rehoboth in 2004, grew up in a small town in Wyoming in the 1950s, where homosexuality, in his words, did not exist. □



Shops along a strip in Rehoboth Beach, Del., Aug. 23, 2011. Rehoboth Beach has a longstanding reputation for having a welcoming atmosphere for gay men and lesbian women.

(Monica Lopossay/The New York Times)

Florida — before settling on Rehoboth. In interviews in San Francisco on Tuesday, several gay people said the city attracted people who did not always want to become part of a couple. The census does not ask about sexual orientation.

"You settle down in small towns because there is not much to choose from," said Nick Meinzer, a 41-year-

of those places. You'd think if they were so great you'd have heard of them."

Dennis Ziebell, 61, the owner of Orphan Andy's, a Castro neighborhood diner he opened 35 years ago, said he did not believe the count was accurate. "Take another survey; that's all I can say," he said. "I've been in a relationship for 36 years, and nobody from the

LOCAL

Aruba TODAY

Introducing Nyoka Edwards



EAGLE BEACH --

Destination weddings are becoming increasingly popular, making up about 16 percent of marriages, and for good reasons. Holding a celebration in an exotic location such as Aruba is one of the most unique ways to share a special life changing event with close friends and family members, turning a wedding into a week-long memory from the rehearsal dinner to the wedding ceremony, dinner-dance party or post-wedding brunch. Aware of what industry experts are saying the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa has just announced Nyoka Edwards as its dedicated Events & Wedding Coordinator. Nyoka was on the special event catering team at the resort for the past four years, but from now on, she will be dedicating her time to lovebirds, about to be wed in the tropics, on Aruba's most famous beach. As the global economy recovers from the most recent turn-down, a new survey indicates that the international destination wedding market will grow to \$16 billion this year. And while weddings at home tend to be larger and costlier, \$20,600 on average, weddings overseas allow the couple more control on the invitation list and on the production of the affair. □

Tierra del Sol Host a Welcome Reception for Visiting Press Members



WEST PUNT - Invited press members from the USA, enjoyed the hospitality of Tierra del Sol Golf Resort, Country Club & Spa at sunset over cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. The dignitaries are on the island to cover the Aruba International Pro-Am Golf Tournament 2011, unfolding this weekend on the championship golf course. The Aruba Tourism Authority helped put together the event which promises to be bigger-than-ever, with 32 teams in attendance, hailing from Colombia, Curacao, Brazil, Bermuda, Bolivia, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, USA and Aruba. The USA team, consists of gold writers, who will be describing their on-island experience also submitting some life style stories to their publications, while staying at Tierra del Sol. The tournament sponsored by Balashi Beer, AWA & Chill Balashi, Diamonds International, DUFRY, Fofoti Tour & Transfer, Tiara Air, Coca Cola, TropicCars, Compra NV and Aruba Aloe, is in its 17th year of existence. Pictured here snapshots from the cocktail reception at the club house. □

Meet the new Managing Director of (APFA)

ORANJESTAD - The Board of the General Pension fund Aruba (APFA) has recently appointed Mrs. Sheila M. van Veen as the Managing Director starting October 1, 2011.

The Board has started the recruitment process for a new Managing Director since it became known that Mrs. Migdid E. Croes-de Jongh, the current Managing Director, will be retiring this year.

Mrs. van Veen has made her career in the banking sector of Aruba and has last held the position of Executive Director Corporate Banking at the Aruba Bank N.V. As such she was a member of the management team and was responsible for establishing and realizing the strategic plans and operational goals of the bank. Mrs. van Veen has ample commercial ex-



perience and knowledge of credit risk management and the management of other risks pertaining to commercial banking e.g. operational and

management risks.

Mrs. van Veen is member of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Aruba and held the position of President of said institution in the past.

Mrs. van Veen is active in the community as the Chairman of the Foundation 'Balansa Nobo', which has as its goal to provide assistance to people with difficulties in managing their debts.

The Board of APFA is convinced that with her knowledge and experience, Mrs. van Veen will give a valuable contribution to the further development of the organization and wishes Mrs. van Veen every success with her appointment.

Staff and personnel of APFA join the Board in welcoming Mrs. van Veen to the organization. □

Ireland gets its own acting academy at Trinity College

PATRICK HEALY

© 2011 New York Times

DUBLIN — Danielle Ryan found herself debating a question with her father several years ago when she was back home here on vacation: Why didn't Ireland, with its rich theatrical bloodlines and population of 6 million people, have an acting school on a par with the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London,

where she and other promising Irish artists had migrated to train in recent decades? Cathal Ryan had no easy answers for his daughter, but he had the resources to do something about it. As co-founders of the European airline Ryanair, the Ryan family is one of the wealthiest in Ireland, and the two Ryans began talks with an Irish university near Dublin about forming

an acting conservatory. That plan fell apart in 2007, just before Cathal Ryan's death. But Danielle Ryan pressed on, with millions of euros from her father's will, and struck a pact — relatively unusual for Ireland — to mix private and public monies to create the new National Academy of Dramatic Art at Trinity College Dublin. The school, also known as the Lir, is set to open on Sept. 19 with its first class of 15 acting students.

"What my father and I came to realize was that the idea of professional acting training was never fully appreciated in Ireland," Ryan said over coffee this summer in the Grand Canal cultural quarter here, where the

Lir (a name inspired by a much-loved story from Irish folklore) will be based, in a newly refurbished Trinity building that includes two

theaters and rehearsal, design and dance studios. "Mostly the tradition in Irish theater was, 'Get up on stage and give it a go.' □

China's state TV deletes video that led to hacking

EDWARD WONG

© 2011 New York Times News Service

Jeffery DelViscio contributed reporting from New York. **BEIJING** — The main Chinese state television network has deleted from the Internet a video that some foreign military and Internet security analysts say implies China has engaged in hacking attacks on websites in the West. The video was the July 16 episode of a program on China Central Television 7 called "Military Science and Technology." The episode, called "The Internet Storm is Coming," was about cyberwarfare.

This week Western analysts began publicly scrutinizing a sequence that a narrator on the program says shows "many Internet attack methods." There is then a demonstration of one method: On the screen, what appears to be a human-operated cursor chooses a target website address, then hits a button that says "attack." Using a software application on screen, the cursor chooses a target website under a pull-down menu for "Falun Gong websites in North America." Falun Gong is a spiritual group that underwent persecution in the late 1990s in China and is now outlawed in the country.

In the CCTV program, the cursor selects an IP address of 138.26.72.17 as a target. It is a defunct IP address at the University of Alabama. But a screenshot of the page linked to that address that was archived on the Internet in 2000 shows an informational page associated with the Falun Gong. It is unclear who set up the page. □

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Cameron Cuffe, an American attending the new National Academy of Dramatic Art at Trinity College Dublin, set to start on Sept. 19 with the first class of 15 acting students, paddle boards on East Bay in Osterville, Mass., Aug. 23, 2011. The new school mixes public and private money for degree-granting programs.

(Julia Cumes/The New York Times)



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Mega Domino Tournament wraps up at the Food Court of the Palm Beach Plaza



PALM BEACH -- The Mega Domino Tournament which occupied center stage at the Food Court of the Palm Beach Plaza Mall wrapped up with 4th Place winners the Cruz Azul team, 3rd Place winners the D. D. Brakes team, 2nd Place winners the Friendly team and 1st Place Champions the Hut Stones. The six-week tournament featured a great number of local teams, and was organizer Roy Quandus. All events were sponsored by the Aruba Trading Company and Level 5 Scotch Whiskey, which provided the handsome trophies to the winners. Roy reports all games were played passionately, yet the atmosphere remained warm and friendly, transforming Wednesday domino nights into real social occasions! □



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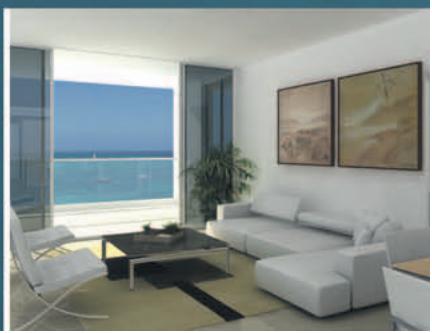
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Hoshi Sushi Restaurant Sparkles, pairing sushi & sparkling wines

PALM BEACH—A fun evening was just recently orchestrated by Romar Trading at Hoshi Sushi & Bar when the expert chefs paired their best creations with Concha Y Toro Brut, Concha Y Toro Demi Sec and Casillero Del Diablo Brut, which is the top of the line sparkling wine for the famed winemaker from Chile.

Clive Faustin, Romar Trading Wine Artist was on hand to welcome guests with a chilled flute of bubbly, and rich information about fine food & wine pairings.

Faustin report that Concha Y Toro, celebrating 125 years of tradition and excellence in wine making will be helping promote certain wine lines from its huge portfolio in Aruba's top restaurant over the next months. Special Concha Y Toro hostesses will help patrons enjoy the best quality and wine-drinking experience.

At Hoshi Sushi owners Rossangel Diaz Manuitt and Lisbeth Gonzalez Capriles delighted their guests with Kokitos, a thinly sliced white



fish appetizer, followed by afresh tropical ceviche, and a platter of beautifully prepared Royce, Tuna, Wakame and Kani Crunch rolls.

The Tempura Ice Cream dessert was paired with Concha Y Toro Late Harvest 2007, fragrant with the

aroma of ripe honey fruit. While the Hoshi Sushi's chefs prepared every plate in the open kitchen, the dining room staff served patrons bottomless flutes of delicious bubbly.

The restaurant and bar at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall serves Japanese and Thai specialties prepared with the freshest Caribbean ingredients. The delicate flavors of traditional sushi and the spice of daring varia-

tions—paired with the excellent Romar Trading Sparkling Wine selection offered diners a much-enjoyed culinary journey to the Far East. The second-floor restaurant enjoys a Japanese style décor, serving sashimi, sushi rolls, salads and wok creations sake wines and Japanese beers, also on the outdoor terrace. Open daily 5:30pm to 11pm, catering and delivery service, available. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



John Isner hits a return against Andy Roddick during a semifinal match at the Winston-Salem Open tennis tournament in Winston-Salem, N.C., Friday, Aug. 26, 2011. Isner won 7-6 (7), 6-4.

Associated Press

Isner beats Roddick at Winston-Salem

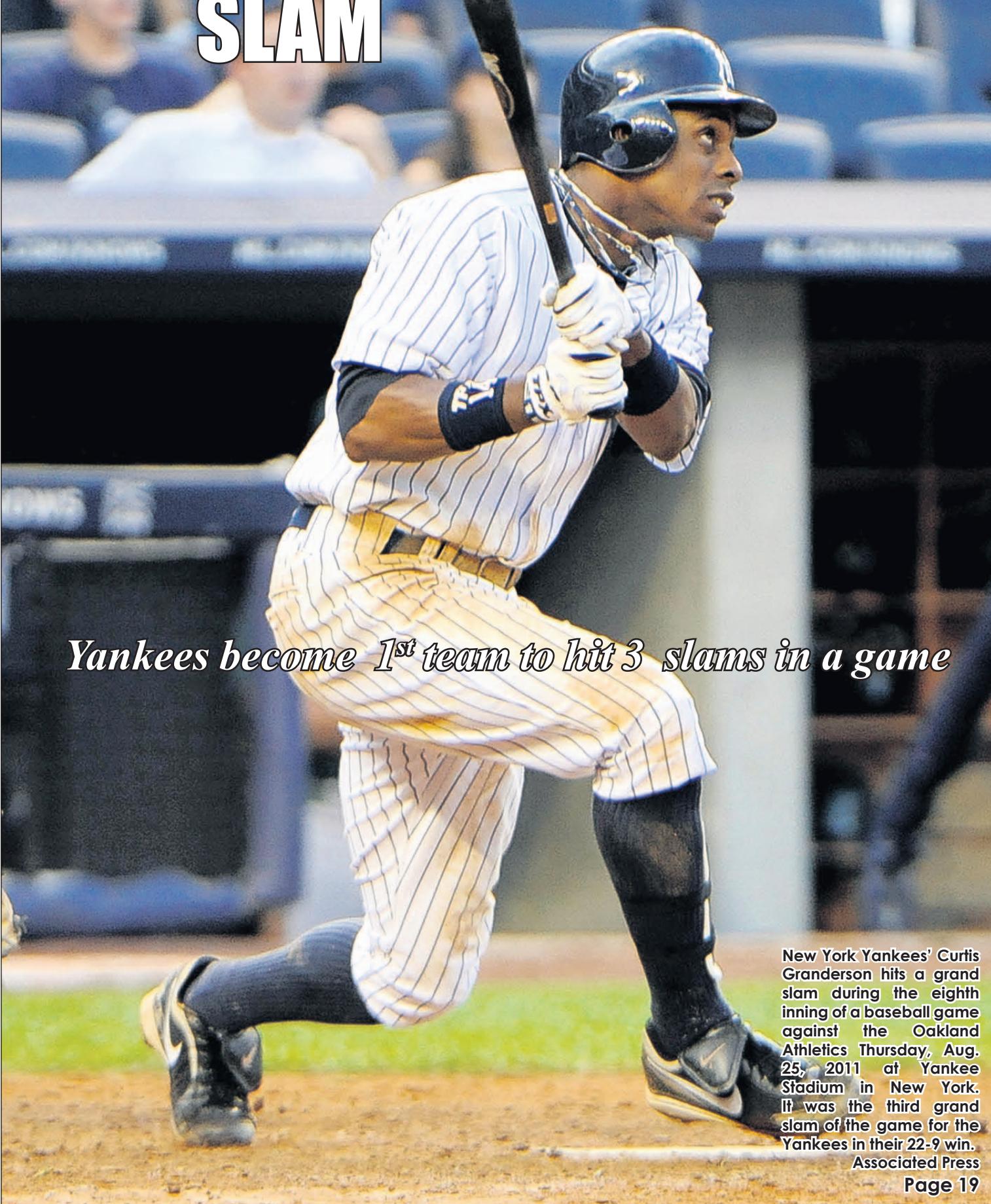
WINSTON-SALEM, North Carolina (AP) — Fourth-seeded John Isner upset top-seeded Andy Roddick 7-6 (7), 6-4 Friday in an all American semifinal at the Winston-Salem Open, the final warmup event before the U.S. Open.

Isner won the first set in a tiebreaker by breaking Roddick's serve to go up 8-7. He ended the set with a 107-mph serve.

"I was flat out just luckier than he was in the first set," Isner said about advancing to his third final of the season. Both players held serve in the first set and it came down to Isner breaking Roddick's serve to go up 8-7. Isner, who has what many consider one of the best serves in the game, then ended the set with an ace.

The 28th-ranked Isner will play the winner of the match between Robin Haase and qualifier Julien Benneteau in Saturday's final. The 21st-ranked Roddick, who had been 8-0 in his career in Winston-Salem, broke Isner in the second set to go up 3-1. □

GRAND-ERSON SLAM



New York Yankees' Curtis Granderson hits a grand slam during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Oakland Athletics Thursday, Aug. 25, 2011 at Yankee Stadium in New York. It was the third grand slam of the game for the Yankees in their 22-9 win.

Associated Press

Page 19

Hurricane forces PGA playoff down to 54 holes

The Associated Press

Before it even hit land, Hurricane Irene trimmed at least 18 holes off the PGA Tour's first playoff event and forced several more schedule changes and cancellations along the East Coast.

U.S. Open tennis officials called off one of their big pre-tournament events, an MLS game was rescheduled and the New York Mets postponed their Saturday and Sunday games against the Atlanta Braves in advance of the storm. Baltimore Orioles spokes-



Spectators pass by a video board during the second round of The Barclays golf tournament, Friday, Aug. 26, 2011, in Edison, N.J. The fans were alerted that due to Hurricane Irene, tournament will be shortened to a 54-hole tournament ending Saturday, and not Sunday.

person Monica Barlow said the team is closely monitoring the situation but because of the rapidly-changing system nothing has been decided. The Orioles and Yankees

are scheduled to play a doubleheader on Saturday and at 1:35 p.m. Sunday. With up to 10 inches of rain expected Sunday in the New York area, the PGA Tour decided to turn

the Barclays into a 54-hole event, with the top 100 players advancing to the second playoff tournament next week in Boston. If conditions worsen before 54 holes are complete, the tournament could revert to 36 holes.

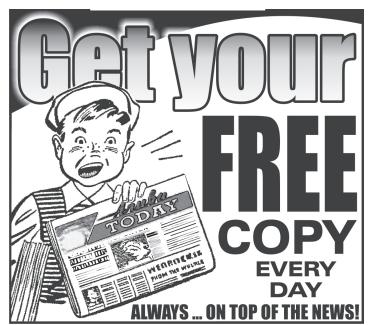
"It kind of makes you want to cry because of all the effort that went in, and all of the energy that surrounded this event going into the week, which is going to be the best Barclays we have ever had," tournament director Peter Mele said.

At Flushing Meadows, the U.S. Tennis Association called off Arthur Ashe Kids' Day, a tennis-and-music event set for Saturday and scheduled to feature Novak Djokovic, defending champion Rafael Nadal and Carmelo Anthony of the New York Knicks. Tennis officials said they

would close the National Tennis Center on Sunday, with plans to reopen it Monday morning before play begins. In other sports, the MLS game between the Portland Timbers and D.C. United, set for Saturday, was postponed, with a makeup date to be announced next week. Other games had been previously rescheduled.

—The Jets-Giants pre-season game was moved up to an afternoon start Saturday instead of a 7 p.m. kickoff.

—Major League Baseball moved Sunday's games at Philadelphia and Boston to Saturday to make them part of day-night doubleheaders, but the Phillies have since rescheduled the night game to Sept. 15. The Phillies play the Marlins, and the Red Sox play the Athletics.□



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Yankees first to hit 3 grand slams in 1 game

BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—Robinson Cano's grand slam gave the New York Yankees a chance. Russell Martin's slam gave them the lead. Curtis Granderson's slam gave them the record.

The Yankees became the first team in Major League Baseball history to hit three slams in a game, rallying from an early six-run deficit to mash the Oakland Athletics 22-9 on a wet, wild Thursday.

"You're not going to see it again, probably," Yankees captain Derek Jeter said. "You can't explain it."

Funny thing: The Yankees could've hit even more grand slams, given all the chances the A's presented them.

Helped by 13 walks, New York batters went to the plate a whopping 16 times with the bases loaded. Jeter alone came up four times with the bags juiced. He grounded out twice, struck out and walked in those spots.

Overall, the Yankees went 6 for 13 with two walks and a sacrifice fly with the bases loaded.

In nearly a century of storied slugging, the Bronx Bombers had never put on a show quite like this. Nobody had, in fact.

"I'm surprised it hadn't been done before with all the great teams and great individual hitters that have come throughout the course of the game," Granderson said.

With MLB in its 136th year and approaching its 200,000th regular-season game next month, the Yan-



A series of photos shows New York Yankees who hit grand slams in a baseball game against the Oakland Athletics on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2011, in New York. From left are Robinson Cano, in the fifth inning; Russell Martin, in the sixth inning; and Curtis Granderson, in the eighth inning. The Yankees became the first team in major league history to hit three grand slams in a game, on the way to a 22-9 win.

Associated Press

kees knew it was a slammin' day.

Not until they saw a note posted on the video board about the three slams, however, did they realize exactly what they'd achieved.

"This game has been played for a long time. Pretty much everything has already happened," Martin said.

Except this.

"Definitely cool. It was fun to be part of it," Martin said. "When there's nowhere to put them, they have to throw strikes."

Martin homered twice and doubled, setting career highs with five hits and six RBIs. Cano and Granderson each drove in five runs as the Yankees pulled off their biggest comeback win since 2006 and avoided a three-game sweep.

On a dreary afternoon, some fans headed home with the Yankees trailing 7-1 after three innings and rain still falling in a game that began after an 89-minute delay.

Turns out they missed the Yankees coming home — over and over and over.

Cano began the barrage with his slam in the fifth, a clean shot into the lower deck in right field off starter Rich Harden that made it 7-6. Martin connected in the sixth off Fautino De Los Santos, a fly that barely made it over the auxiliary scoreboard in right for a 10-7 lead. Granderson took his turn in the eighth, launching a no-doubt drive into New York's right-center field bullpen with two outs off Bruce Billings.

It was the Yankees' highest-scoring game since they got 22 runs at Boston in 2000, and it tied the team record set in 1931 for most runs in a home game.

The 22 runs marked the most allowed by the Athletics since 1955, when they were based in Kansas City and lost 29-6 to the Chicago White Sox.

"It only counts as one (loss), but it was definitely embarrassing," Oakland interim manager Bob Melvin said.

In other AL games it was N.Y. Yankees 22, Oakland 9; Baltimore 6, Minnesota 1; Detroit 2, Tampa Bay 0; Kansas City 9, Toronto 6; and Boston 6, Texas 0. □

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Hurricane Irene to deliver blow to economy

ELLEN GIBSON
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As Hurricane Irene roars toward the U.S. East Coast — home to some of America's most densely populated cities and costliest waterfront real estate — experts are forecasting a multibillion-dollar disaster.

Hurricane Irene is expected to make landfall in North Carolina as a Category 2 storm early Saturday, then move up the Eastern Seaboard, where more than 50 million people from the Carolinas to Massachusetts could be in the path of heavy rain and tropical-force winds.

The economic impact of the hurricane largely will depend on factors that include the storm's size, where it makes landfall, and the speed at which it's moving when it hits the coast. But experts already are forecasting billions of dollars in losses.

"It's probably going to be very damaging," said



People buy generators and plywood boards as they prepare for the arrival of Hurricane Irene in Kitty Hawk, N.C., Friday, Aug. 26, 2011 on North Carolina's Outer Banks.

Associated Press

Roger Pielke, a University of Colorado professor and fellow of the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences. A computer model of Irene's potential impact

puts the estimated damage at \$4.7 billion, according to research by Pielke and catastrophe-insurance provider ICAT. That figure, which came from analyzing

27 comparable storms dating back to 1913, includes destruction of homes, cars, public infrastructure and other property caused by high winds and flooding.

The number doesn't factor in the added impact of lost sales from shuttered restaurants, quiet casinos, canceled flights and boarded-up stores — all of which could add billions of dollars to the fallout.

Statistician Nate Silver, who crunched the data for his New York Times blog, puts the worst-case estimate at \$35 billion — half of New York City's annual budget — if Irene were to pass directly over Manhattan with 100 mile-per-hour (160 kph) winds.

While the odds of a direct hit on the city are slim, a Category 2 storm passing within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of downtown would cause \$10 billion in damage, according to Silver's model.

Some are drawing comparisons to the New England Hurricane of 1938, nicknamed "The Long Island Express," which packed 100-mile-per-hour (160 kph) winds when it made landfall in New York and destroyed 8,900 homes across southern New England.

Were the same storm to occur today, it would cause \$46.2 billion in property damage, according to ICAT, because the coastal regions it hit are now home to many more businesses and expensive homes.

"Everybody wants to live by the ocean," says Chris Hackett, director of personal lines policy at the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America, who notes that as much as two-thirds of the New York's insured property value is along the coast.

On the less-severe side of ICAT's Irene model are East Coast storms that wreaked less havoc. □

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Jim Thome traded back to Cleveland

TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Jim Thome is returning to the Cleveland Indians, making a homecoming to the team where his 600-homer major league career began and aiming to power the Tribe into the playoffs.

The 40-year-old slugger accepted a trade from Minnesota Twins on Thursday, providing the biggest surprise in a Cleveland season already filled with more than its fair share of plot twists.

Thome spent 12 seasons with Cleveland from 1991-2002, hitting a team-record 334 homers and helping the Indians get to two World Series. He hit 52 in his final season before signing as a free agent with Philadelphia, a decision that angered many Indians fans who may now have had enough time to forgive him.

"He's excited," Indians general manager Chris Antonetti said. "He's fired up to come back and join the team. I am hopeful and confident that fans will embrace him wearing an Indians uniform again. He's not

only an exceptional player but a person as well. Even if he wasn't a person that hit 600 home runs, he's just a great person."

Earlier this month, the five-time All-Star became just the eighth player in history to hit 600 homers.

Thome waived a no-trade clause in his contract to clear his return to the Indians, who have been in playoff contention in the American League Central all season but have lost six of their past seven games amid a rash of injuries. Thome's arrival will soften the loss of designated hitter Travis Hafner, who is on the disabled list and may need season-ending foot surgery. Antonetti hopes Thome will arrive in time to be in the Indians' lineup Friday night. Antonetti doesn't expect Thome to play every game.

"We will have to manage his playing time," Antonetti said. "He's certainly not an everyday player at this point. We'll work with Jim on this. We'd like to have him out there to impact the team as often as we can. Every game for the team

is meaningful. We are trying to win as many games as possible and we'll see where that takes us."

Thome's bat once helped Cleveland twice get close to its first Series title since 1948, and now the Indians hope it still has a little magic.

"What If?" team president Mark Shapiro tweeted, using the team's 2011 motto. "Jim Thome came home."

After a poor 2010, the Indians weren't expected to contend this season, but have been at or near the top of their division since April. However, as August drains to its final days, Cleveland has slipped back in the standings and trails Detroit by 6-1/2 games.

A skinny third baseman when he came up, Thome,

along with fellow All-Stars Sandy Alomar Jr., Albert Belle, Kenny Lofton, Manny Ramirez and Carlos Baerga formed the core of the Indians' teams that dominated their division in the '90s and went to the World Series in 1995 and 1997 — losing both times.

Thome's big swing, a blend of quickness, power and follow-through, and his aw-shucks attitude, made him one of Cleveland's most popular players. That changed, though, following the '02 season.

As a free agent, Thome turned down a generous, long-term contract from the Indians — who even offered to build a statue in his honor — for a chance to win a World Series in Philadelphia. At the time, he



Cleveland Indians' Jim Thome warms up for batting practice before a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals Friday, Aug. 26, 2011, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

felt the Phillies were closer to a title than the Indians, who were in the early stages of a massive rebuilding project. □

Kittel wins Vuelta's 7th stage

TALAVERA DE LA REINA, Spain (AP) — German rider Marcel Kittel won the seventh stage of the Spanish Vuelta on Friday, while Sylvain Chavanel maintained the leader's jersey for the fourth consecutive day.

The Skil Shimano rider edged ahead of the pack for the victory after Tyler Farrar of the United States fell in the final meters, provoking an accident in the peloton just before the finish line. Kittel finished the 114-mile leg from Almaden to Talavera de la Reina in four hours, 47 minutes, 59 seconds. "It's like a dream," said the 23-year-old Kittel. "We are so proud of each other. We did really good teamwork today." Peter Sagan, of Liquigas-Cannondale, came close to claiming his second straight stage, but finished runner-up. The day's race did not produce any major changes among the leaders of the general classification. Quickstep rider Chavanel protected his 15-second lead over Daniel Moreno and his 16-second advantage over defending champion Vincenzo Nibali.

A group of four cyclists broke away early in the stage, establishing an advantage of almost nine minutes, before being caught with 10 kilometers to go. "Although the stage was classified for sprinters the route was anything but easy," Chavanel said. "There was also a wind factor that antagonized the pack all day long. However we stayed in control all day."

The pile up on the final stretch included, among others, Nibali and fellow contender Joaquin Rodriguez, who stayed within 23 seconds of the lead.

"All of us who want to be at the top of the classification were very nervous (in the accident)," said Rodriguez, adding that he had hurt his right hand when braking. □



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Health care not the employment promised land yet

Dan Chapman

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ATLANTA -- Even during the teeth of the recession, as millions of Americans lost their jobs, one industry promised stability, growth and well-paid employment for years to come.

"Health care is the most promising industry," said Michael Thurmond, the former labor commissioner for Georgia.

For now, it appears to be a promise delayed. New metro Atlanta unemployment numbers issued this week underscore the sluggish state of the job mar-

people and getting by with less," said Christopher Gillig, a health care services executive who was laid off in January. "Health care will grow, but not as quickly and aggressively as expected."

Still, the fundamentals that undergirded earlier optimism remain: the country is getting older; Americans strive to get healthier; and health care reform will likely translate into job growth.

"The growing Baby Boomer population will provide enormous opportunity," said Vicki Snow, who's on track to graduate from

Grady spend on health care. Grady Memorial Hospital in downtown Atlanta, for example, reported that costly emergency room visits rose 11 percent during the first five months of 2011, due largely to the uninsured, compared with the same period of 2010.

Grady has cut more than 200 jobs this year, closed two neighborhood health clinics and upped prescription drug co-payments in an effort to stem a \$17 million budget shortfall. In June Piedmont Healthcare, which runs hospitals in Georgia in Atlanta, Jasper, Newnan and Fayetteville, announced 464 layoffs.

Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah, Ga., is cutting 228 jobs. Statewide, hospitals trimmed about 3,000 jobs over the last 12 months, according to the Georgia Department of Labor.

A nursing home in Lawrenceville, for example, let go 83 workers earlier this year. Gillig, a 28-year health care industry veteran, said poor sales cost him his job at an Atlanta area company that provides laundry service for hospitals.

"There's so much uncertainty over health care reform so hospitals are doing all they can to reduce costs," said Gillig, formerly a senior vice president for sales.

"They're not hiring and they're getting by with less."

President Obama's health care law, if it withstands court challenges, would require Americans to buy insurance while subsidizing individuals and offering tax incentives for small businesses. Hospitals expect the law to further reduce assistance from Washington as cost-containment efforts kick in. They're also wary of additional efforts to corral the federal budget deficit.

In addition, Washington is cutting Medicare reimbursements for hospitals and states slash Medicaid payments to doctors' offices, hospitals and nursing homes. □



ket, even in health care. The July jobless rate dipped one-tenth of a point from June to 10.4 percent. That was unchanged from a year earlier.

So too, were the number of jobs at hospitals, nursing homes, residential care facilities and clinics across Georgia. A year ago, the state tallied 395,700 health care jobs. In July there were 399,100, a .9 percent increase.

Reasons vary. The unemployed and newly frugal postpone elective surgery and other non-essential medical needs. Hospital costs for indigent care soar. Reduced Medicare and Medicaid payments hurt bottom lines. And uncertainty over the new federal health care law causes CEOs to budget cautiously. "Hospitals and health-care providers have so much apprehension about the economy in general they're not hiring as many

Kennesaw State's nursing program in December. "Health care jobs will always be available if you're open to different jobs and where those jobs may be."

Nationally, hospitals, nursing homes and clinics added 430,000 workers during the recession, which lasted from December 2007 to June 2009, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. But health care doesn't operate in a vacuum. As overall unemployment rose into double-digits, the industry suffered.

"Traditionally, the health care sector lags behind the rest of the economy by as many as six quarters," said Bill Custer, a health care expert at Georgia State University. "People lose their jobs, but don't necessarily lose their health insurance right away because of COBRA and other insurance coverage."

Once insurance runs out, though, people no lon-



Boy Scouts are excited for the new physical fitness program.

Boy Scouts launch new fitness program

RICHARD A. MARINI

© 2011 San Antonio Express

SAN ANTONIO -- For more than 100 years, the Boy Scouts have attracted new recruits with the lure of camping, boating and other outdoor activities. But because they spend so much time indoors watching TV and playing video games, these new members are increasingly out of shape and overweight.

To honor the part of the Boy Scout oath that promises "To keep myself physically strong," the Boy Scouts of America have introduced a healthy-living initiative called "Scout-Strong."

A collaboration with the President's Council on Physical Fitness, Sports and Nutrition, the program will create a Scout-specific Presidential Active Lifestyle Award designed to teach the importance of making healthy choices. BSA officials say they hope 500,000 Scouts and their family members will achieve the award by 2013.

The new program was announced at the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort during the BSA's annual Top Hands meeting of Scouting leaders.

"As the Boy Scouts of America, we should be advocates for youth when it comes to healthy living and fighting the battle against obesity," Bob Mazzuca, chief scout executive, said following the program's launch. "This is a natural partnership between two iconic brands."

There are 2.7 million Scouts between the ages of 7 and 21 in the U.S.

To earn the award, children under 18 must be physically active 60 minutes a day (30 minutes for adults), for at least five days a week for six out of eight weeks. More than 100 activities count toward the daily requirement, including running, gardening and canoeing. Those who complete the challenge will be able to download a certificate of achievement and may purchase award patches.

Getting a jump on the program announcement, national commissioner Tico Perez, an attorney from Orlando, Fla., has dropped 85 pounds since January by eating better and exercising regularly.

"I'm doing it for the normal health reasons, but also because I know I serve as a role model for these boys," he said.

He and 15 other adult Scout leaders also have already earned their Presidential Active Lifestyle Award.

BSA's commitment to healthy living extends to the 2013 Boy Scout Jamboree in West Virginia. Adult leaders will not be allowed to attend the jamboree if their body mass index is above 40. The Scouts will consult with the doctors of those whose BMI is between 32 and 40 to make sure they can handle the rigorous physical activity required during the event. □

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Report shows more U.S. farmers relying on Internet

By GOSIA WOZNIACKA

Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — Think of farms and images of tractors and combines come to mind. But what about laptops, smart phones and tablets?

The number of farmers with Internet access on a variety of digital gadgets has dramatically increased, changing the way farms do business. Farmers say they're increasingly using the Net to speed up their work flow, improve their farming techniques, market their crops, connect with customers and retailers, and fulfill a variety of regulatory requirements.

Within the past decade, the number of farms with an Internet connection has increased by nearly 20 percentage points, according to a report issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture earlier this month. More than half of America's farms now have access to the Internet, with farmers in the West with the highest access.

"The Internet is such an integral part of doing business in agriculture," said Dan Errotabere, who farms 3,500 acres in Riverdale, 25 miles south of Fresno. "If the power goes off, everything on the farm seems to stop. Everything is so electronic now."

Farmers still lag behind the general population — nearly 80 percent of Americans surf the Web at home — but the fact that Internet-enabled devices have become less expensive and more portable has fueled the increase. Big farms like Errotabere's have the most access, the USDA report

shows. More than 70 percent of farms with sales of \$250,000 or more use the Internet for farm business.

For Errotabere, the Internet is key in communicating with and delivering documents to government officials, manufacturers, packers and retailers. His staff files reports online, catches up with pest control advisers via email and receives text messages about the weather.

Errotabere emails brokers and trades agricultural commodity futures on the Web, and he downloads delivery information on an hourly basis for his crops.

"The Internet is quicker, portable and more reliable than mail," said Errotabere, who uses a laptop and smart phone and just got an iPad. "You get a pulse for whatever is happening in real-time. It has revolutionized the ag business."

Alec Smith, whose family's Turlock Fruit Company grows melons and other crops on several thousand acres near Firebaugh, 45 miles northwest of Fresno, says one of the most important advances of the Internet is in pest control. When plants exhibit signs of disease, staff at Turlock Fruit snap photos and emails them to plant disease specialists at universities. The specialists then email back with advice for combatting a disease.

Turlock Fruit Company workers also use websites that act as buying networks between growers and shippers, carriers, retail grocers and wholesalers. Using such websites, grocery stores can place orders directly with Smith's company. □

"You can make quicker decisions with the info you get on the Internet," said Smith, who occasionally tweets and blogs to share updates of life on the farm.

About 41 percent of smaller farms also are online, according to the USDA.

Rob Rundle of Rundle Family Farms, who grows vegetables on 13 acres on the outskirts of Fresno, uses the Internet on a desktop and smart phone to beef up his farming practices — learning about pests, seed varieties, crop production, fertilizer use and soil types.

Before the Internet, Rundle said, he had to speak with crop advisers in person or pay for books or pamphlets. The Internet makes that quicker and cheaper.

At the 40-acre Smith Family Farm in Fresno, a community-supported agriculture program that sells directly to customers, owner Mike Smith posts photos of his farm on Facebook, updates the farm website weekly with available crops and runs a blog. Customers email their orders.

Smith said he turned to the Web when he switched from doing wholesale to running a CSA and selling directly to customers at farmers' markets.

"The Internet means survival to a lot of the small farmers," he said. "When you have a CSA and don't have a web site, nobody's going to know about you."

Despite the enormous benefits to using the new technology, barriers remain for many farmers, said Richard Molinar, a small farm adviser at the University of California Cooperative Extension in Fresno. □



In this photo taken Aug. 22, 2011, Mike Smith of Smith Family Farm poses for a photo with his laptop on his farm in Fresno, Calif.

Associated Press

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After Apple's fall, is it time to buy or sell?

BERNARD CONDON

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Should

you buy or sell Apple?

Investors largely shrugged off news this week that Steve Jobs is stepping down as CEO, barely selling its shares. But that hasn't satisfied Wall Street analysts who follow the tech giant.

They say the shares are a bargain and likely to rise by a third over the next year. Their recommendation: Buy Apple by the bucketful.

So who is right? The pros or the investors?

The short answer may be the pros, though the stock is probably not the steal that many of them assume. One popular way to value a company's stock is to look at how high it is trading relative to its earnings per share.

It's a rough measure, but it does show that Apple is not much more expensive than the average company. At Thursday's closing price of \$374 per share, Apple is trading at 12 times its expected earnings over the next 12 months compared with 11 times for the Standard & Poor's 500 index. Translation: For every dollar you spend on Apple, you should expect roughly the same earnings as you would get on the average company.

The difference, of course, is



An Apple MacBook is seen on display as customers browse an Apple retail store in central London, Thursday, Aug. 25, 2011. Steve Jobs resigned as CEO on Wednesday, saying he could no longer handle the job and would continue to play a leadership role as chairman of the board.

Associated Press

that Apple has a tendency to beat expectations and send its stock soaring.

It's up 16 percent since Jan. 1, and it briefly topped Exxon Mobil this month as the most valued U.S. company.

One reason the stock trades at a discount to its stellar reputation is a bit counterintuitive: The company has been so successful at producing hot products, starting with the iPod in 2001, then the iPhone in 2007 and last year's big hit, the iPad.

The problem is, no one knows if the company can

keep this up, especially now that its visionary CEO is resigning (though he will stay as chairman). If Apple doesn't produce more big sellers, estimates of future earnings may prove too high.

But Shaw Wu, an analyst at Sterne, Agee & Leach, says investors are confusing the image of Apple as an innovative, rebel company with the less colorful, but reliable profit maker that it is.

"It's not just a company producing hit products," Wu says. "The earnings have become more predictable."

Despite the popularity of its iPhone, Wu estimates that it still only accounts for 5 percent of cellphones in the world. □



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Bernanke's speech sends stocks higher; Dow up 134

NEW YORK (AP) — The Dow Jones industrial average ended another turbulent week with a strong gain Friday after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said the U.S. was headed for long-term economic growth. It was the first winning week in a month.

Trading volume was light, a sign that many traders were leaving New York ahead of Hurricane Irene. The storm is expected to reach the region late Saturday night. A spokesman for the New York Stock Exchange said trading is expected to open as usual Monday.

Bernanke announced no new economic stimulus measures during his speech at a conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, as some investors had hoped. He did leave open the possibility of more action if another recession looks likely.

Indexes fell sharply as the speech was released at 10 a.m. and it became clear that Bernanke was not promising additional support of the economy. The Dow Jones industrial average was down about 78 points shortly before the speech started and slumped as many as 220 points shortly after Bernanke started speaking. It recovered within an hour and stayed higher the rest of the day.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 134.72 points, or 1.2 percent, to close at 11,284.54. It was up 4.3 per-

cent for the week after being down the past four.

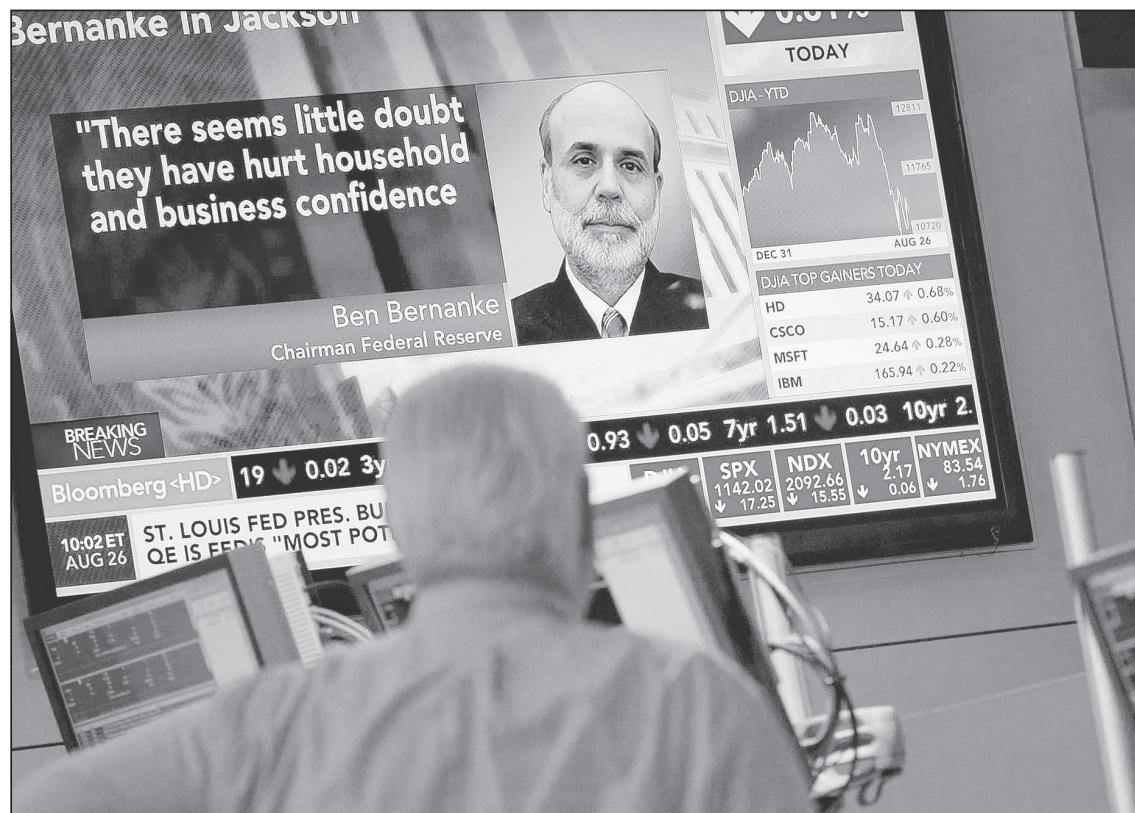
The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 17.53, or 1.5 percent, to 1,176.80. It rose 4.7 percent for the week, its biggest gain since the week ended July 1. The technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index rose 60.22, or 2.5 percent, to 2,479.85. Boeing Co. rose 2.8 percent, the most of the 30 stocks that make up the Dow.

Tiffany & Co. rose 9 percent, the most of any of the 500 stocks in the S&P index, after the luxury retailer raised its profit forecast for the year.

In his speech, Bernanke focused on the long-term strengths of the U.S. economy. He said they "do not appear to have been permanently altered by the shocks of the past four years." That shot of optimism helped lift markets.

"In the American economy, the only thing that's really lacking right now is confidence," said David Kelly, chief market strategist at JPMorgan funds. "People who understand the limits of monetary policy also understand that the economy has what it takes to grow."

Other analysts said Bernanke's speech helped lift investor sentiment. Liz Ann Sonders, chief investment strategist at Charles Schwab, said Bernanke's speech was an "acknowledgement that the Fed is



A trader looks up at monitor after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's speech concludes on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Friday, Aug. 26, 2011, in New York.

Associated Press

not out of tools and that they stand ready" to act if needed.

Underscoring how fragile the U.S. economic recovery is, early Friday the government said the nation's economy grew at an annual rate of just 1 percent in the April-June quarter, weaker than the government's first estimate of 1.3 percent. The report renewed concerns that the U.S. might be headed for another recession. The Fed has said it plans to keep short-term interest rates low until mid-2013. Low rates on investments like bonds make higher-risk

bets such as stocks more attractive. At last year's conference in Jackson Hole, Bernanke signaled the central bank would buy more government bonds to lower long-term interest rates.

The government lowered its estimate for economic growth in the April-June quarter because of fewer exports and weaker growth in business stockpiles. That means the economy expanded at an annual rate of only 0.7 percent in the first six months of the year, the worst pace since the recession ended in June 2009. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note spiked in

the hour after Bernanke's speech. It was 2.13 percent just before the speech and rose to 2.22 percent in the hour after the text was released. The yield was 2.19 percent late Friday.

The last time the New York Stock Exchange was closed because of weather was Jan. 8, 1996, when the opening was delayed until 11 a.m. because of a snowstorm. Hurricane Gloria caused a shutdown on Sept. 27, 1985.

Five stocks rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange. Volume was relatively light at 4.2 billion. □

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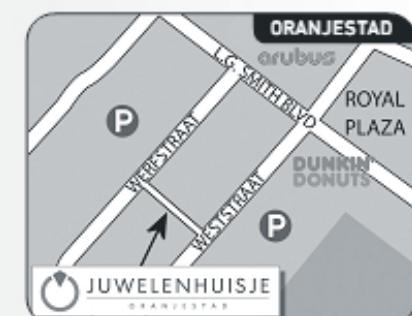
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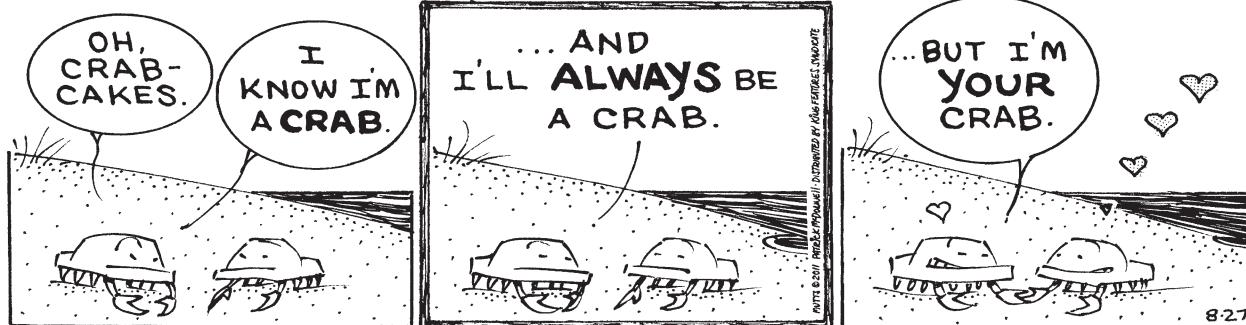


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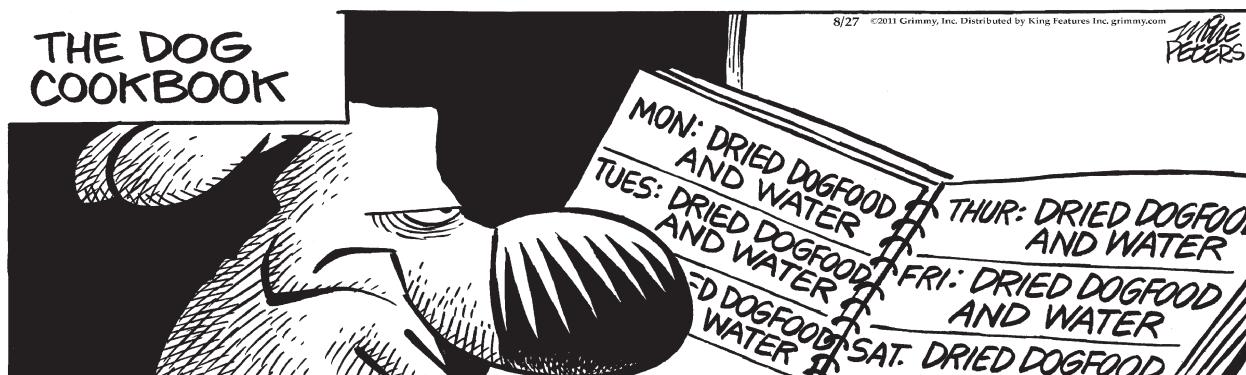
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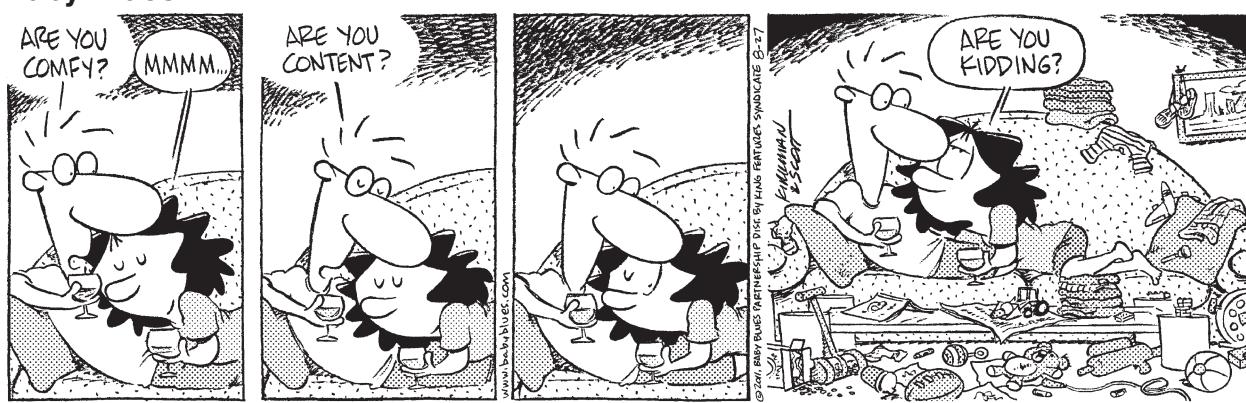
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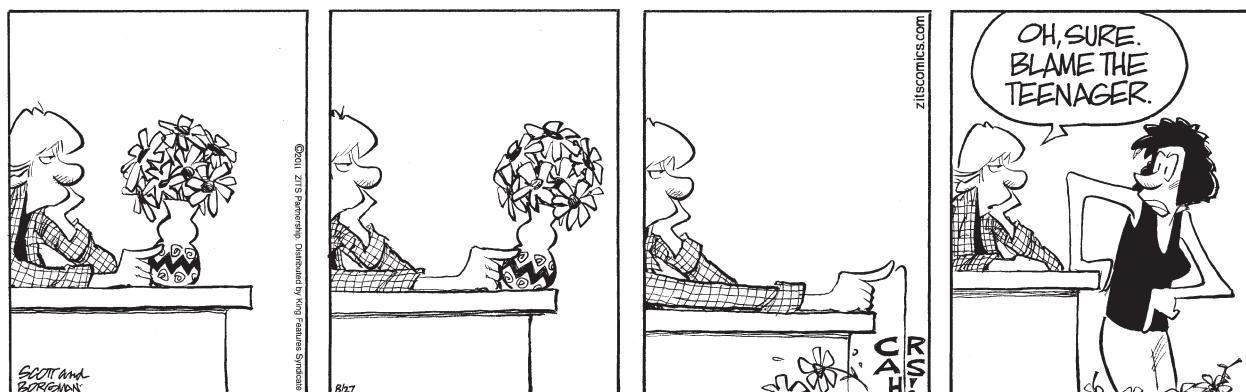
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Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	7		4	2	5		8					
6												9
2			1		9							3
8				4								7
4					7	3						6
5												8
	9		5	3	6		4					

Difficulty Level ★★★★

8/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

8	5	9	2	3	7	1	4	6				
1	6	2	4	9	5	8	7	3				
4	3	7	6	1	8	5	2	9				
9	2	4	1	5	6	3	8	7				
3	7	5	8	2	4	6	9	1				
6	1	8	9	7	3	2	5	4				
5	8	6	3	4	9	7	1	2				
7	4	1	5	6	2	9	3	8				
2	9	3	7	8	1	4	6	5				

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16				
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47	48	49								50		51	52	53
54					55	56				57				
58					59					60				
61					62					63				

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/27/11

Friday's Puzzle Solved

A	L	A			A	F	T	E		K	E	N	O
R	E	B	A		T	R	U	C		O	V	E	N
T	A	L	C		T	E	R	R		P	E	R	U
D	E	C	I	T	F	U	L			E	N	D	S
E	A	R	S							L	A	C	
E	L	A	P	S									
D	E	I	T	Y									
D	A	M	S										
I	R	E	P										
E	N	D	O										
O	N	A	H										
T	O	G	A										
G	A	N	M										
S	L	O	T										

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8/27/11

5 Attack violently
6 apso; small dog from Tibet
7 Dryer residue
8 Fire ; stinging insect
9 Affirmative vote
10 Shaped like a submarine
11 Peruse
12 Classic board game
13 Additionally
14 Deep valley
15 Max Sydow
16 Extend one's subscription
17 Clockmaker Thomas
18 Hive resident
19 Make right
20 Killer whale
21 Actress Paquin
22 Radiate
23 Chime
24 Male deer
25 Yuletide visitor
26 Like Tabasco sauce
27 Tobacco-drying kiln
28 Bronco rider's event
29 Bone in the leg
30 Raced
31 No; 5; classic perfume
32 "The Lone "
33 Unstable, as a marriage
34 Capture
35 Brewer's tub
36 Male deer
37 Isolated
38 Clockmaker Thomas
39 Hive resident
40 Anteater
41 Worshipped
42 Deep valley
43 Max Sydow
44 Extend one's subscription
45 Affirmative vote
46 Shaped like a submarine
47 Peruse
48 Classic board game
49 Additionally
50 Dryer residue
51 Fire ; stinging insect
52 Hive resident
53 Clockmaker Thomas
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87 Capture
88 Brewer's tub
89 Male deer
90 Isolated
91 Clockmaker Thomas
92 Shaped like a submarine
93 Peruse
94 Radiate
95 Worshipped
96 Unstable, as a marriage
97 Capture
98 Brewer's tub
99 Male deer
100 Isolated

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, August 27, the 239th day of 2011. There are 126 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1789 - French National Assembly adopts Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, proclaiming that "men are born and remain free and equal in rights."

1813 - French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte wins his last great battle at Dresden, Germany, against a larger Austrian, Prussian and Russian force.

1828 - Uruguay is formally proclaimed independent at preliminary peace talks between Brazil and Argentina.

1883 - The most powerful volcanic eruption ever recorded blows apart Mount Krakatau in the Sunda Straits, Indonesia. Shock waves travel around the earth and tidal waves kill an estimated 36,000 people.

1916 - Romania declares war against Austria-Hungary, thus entering World War I. The country is soon occupied by German and Bulgarian forces.

1921 - British install Faisal, son of Sherif Hussein who led Arab revolt against Turks, as king of Iraq.

1927 - American Bill Brock flies the Pride of Detroit over London on his way to completing the first-ever flight around the world. Republics to at least preserve military and economic union.

1992 - U.S. and British warplanes impose allied flight ban over southern Iraq.

1993 - A dam at the Gouhou reservoir in the western Chinese province of Qinghai bursts, releasing torrents of water that killed hundreds of people and destroyed several villages.

2001 - Peru's Congress votes to lift the constitutional immunity of former President Alberto Fujimori, clearing the way for prosecutors to charge him with crimes against humanity.

2002 - A judge in Tokyo Dis-



Today is Paul Reubens's birthday

trict Court issues a ruling acknowledging Japan engaged in biological warfare in China in World War II and conducted experiments on Chinese prisoners of war.

2004 - Armed with knives, Eritrean deportees hijacked a plane that left Libya carrying about 80 fellow Eritreans and forced it to land in the Sudanese capital before surrendering to security forces.

2005 - Right-wing paramilitary warlords formally surrender control of a government-granted safe haven in northwest Colombia, in what officials say is a step toward wrapping up demobilization talks with the government.

2006 - Iran tests a new anti-ship missile fired by a submarine during war games, raising worries it could disrupt vital oil tanker traffic in the Gulf amid its stand-off with the West over its suspect nuclear activities.

2007 - Under pressure to solve the contract-style killing of journalist and Kremlin critic Anna Politkovskaya, Russia's chief prosecutor announces the arrest of 10 suspects, including a Chechen crime boss and five law enforcement officers.

2008 - Iraq calls on companies to submit designs to build a giant Ferris wheel in Baghdad — the latest in a string of lavish proposals painting the capital as a

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2009 - Fighting reportedly breaks out between an ethnic militia and government security forces in northeastern Myanmar, breaching a two-decade cease-fire.

2010 - Cuba issues a pair of surprising free-market decrees, allowing foreign investors to lease government land for up to 99 years — potentially touching off a golf-course building boom — and loosening state controls on commerce to let islanders grow and sell their own fruit and vegetables.

Today's Birthdays:

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, German philosopher (1770-1831); Sophia Smith,

U.S. philanthropist, founded Smith College (1796-1870); Theodore Dreiser, U.S. author (1871-1945); Samuel Goldwyn, U.S. film producer (1882-1974); Man Ray, U.S. artist (1890-1976); Lyndon B. Johnson, U.S. president (1908-1973); Mother Teresa, Albanian nun (1910-1997); Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Zulu nationalist leader in South Africa (1928--); Paul Reubens (Pee Wee Herman), U.S. actor (1952--); Sarah Chalke, actress (1976--).

Thought for Today:

If you board the wrong train, it is no use running along the corridor in the other direction — Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German theologian (1906-1945). □



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BGD San Nicolas	584-1606
Valero Security	584-1720

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192392A

192392B

Mexican soap opera takes close look at 9/11

ISAAC GARRIDO

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, Isabel Sanmillan is taking part in a meeting in one of the twin towers of the World Trade Center. Thousands of miles away in Mexico, her family watches on television as the plane crashes. They fear their loved one has perished in New York.

A decade later, Sanmillan finds herself back in Mexico, thanks to the efforts of her daughter Camila in finding her. The woman doesn't remember who she once was, a photographer and the founder of a newspaper. Her employees have a hard time, as well, believing that this woman who has unexpectedly returned owns their company.

Sanmillan's story sounds like a miracle found in the rubble of the towers, but it's unfolding on millions of Mexican TV screens this summer in the soap opera "The Eighth Commandment," which traces the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border.

While Americans prepare to mark the 10th anniversary of the event, many Mexicans are remembering it through the twists and turns of this soap opera. The six-month-long series, in fact, takes on the subject with more candor than most U.S. productions have dared to adopt so far. That includes scenes set inside the towers during the attacks and portraits of individuals who perished.

Producer Epigmenio Ibarra said he aimed to tell intimate stories within the epic frame. The series doesn't yet have an air date in the U.S.

Ibarra and co-writer Laura Sosa also deal with other themes currently in the news, such as Mexican government corruption, violence against journalists and the country's out-of-control drug violence.

"It was a landmark that was not only powerfully symbolic, but so big, so extremely terrible that it let us insert a story of human drama that was truthful ... that gave us a theme we wanted to talk about: the perspective of the victims," Ibarra said.

He said his idea gained extra inspiration after the May killing of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden. One of the first scenes in the series, in fact, shows the Sanmillan's family's response to the terrorist leader's death.

Actress Sara Maldonado, who broke from her usual good-girl roles to play daughter Camila, said the specter of the event haunted the set even a decade later. "It's already the 10th anniversary, but it's super-present," Maldonado said during a break in shooting.

"Each time we did scenes about the subject, I got goose bumps."

At a recent rehearsal in a studio outside Mexico City, Isabel Sanmillan, played by actress Leticia Huijara, visits the offices of her newspaper and is shocked to find a photo of herself in a makeshift memorial, in which she appears as a kind of martyr to journalism.

Huijara holds in her hands a U.S. flag with the word "honor" and her name as well as the names of the attack's victims printed on it.

"I think that what the Americans didn't have was a mourning process like this," Huijara said on the set. "They have to create some space exactly to show how things were, so that this mourning and healing come."

"The Eighth Commandment," which began airing in Mexico on Aug. 8, follows Isabel Sanmillan to New York before the attacks to pitch photos she took of a meeting between a top official of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, a representative of the Mexican government and a drug trafficker. □

Smart casting puts Emmy winner in royal role

MIKE CIDONI LENNOX

AP Entertainment Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)

— "Designing Women" creator Linda Bloodworth-Thomason once wrote that actress Jean Smart's character on the 1980s sitcom had "legs that stretched out for five or six miles, and one of those laughs that made you feel like riding around in a convertible." Some 25 years later, Smart's girl-next-door looks, legs and laugh are intact, making her casting of Prince Charles's matronly second wife, Camilla Parker Bowles, all the more surprising — except to Smart herself.

"The thing is, I started out in the theater, so I always did all kinds of parts — all different ages, all kinds of parts," Smart explained recently, while promoting the TV movie "William & Catherine: A Royal Romance," which debuts Saturday night (9 p.m. EDT) on the Hallmark Channel. "And, actually, Camilla was adorable when they were younger."

Smart said she hopes the movie, which follows William and Catherine from introduction to proposal, sheds a new, positive light on Bowles, "the true love of Charles's life," as per Smart. Bowles was widely maligned by the public and press — especially in the wake of Princess Diana's untimely death in 1997.

"Yes, there are a couple of moments where she has a nice, self-deprecating sense of humor about herself and the fact it's taken a gaggle of stylists to kind of put her together and everything, and it's kind of nice," Smart said.

"I really liked the way she was portrayed in the script, and a very sympathetic, likeable character, and I thought she ... deserved that."

The Seattle-born Smart will likely always be best known as Charlene Olivia Frazier Stillfield, the naïve but huge-hearted office manager at Atlanta's Sugarbaker design firm, on the first five seasons (1986-91) of the sitcom "Designing Women."

"Oh, yeah, it was a great job," Smart recalled. "And

we had a blast. And we're all still friends. And we're devastated by losing Dixie." Costar Dixie Carter died in April 2010 following complications from endometrial cancer. She was just 70.

"Oh, she was something else," Smart noted, with a wistful smile.

"And we all (the "Designing Women" leads) went to the funeral in Tennessee, her little hometown in Tennessee.

Annie (Potts) and I flew down together. We met Delta (Burke)," Smart then pursed her lips and looked away, unable to continue for a few seconds, but then noting that Carter's husband, actor Hal Holbrook, was "doing pretty well, considering they were inseparable."

Since leaving "Designing Women," Smart has actually enjoyed numerous TV-career highs: two Emmy Awards for guest appearances on "Frasier" (2000, 2001), a key role on the drama "24" in 2006, the year it won the Emmy for drama series, and another of her own Emmys for playing Christina Applegate's self-centered mother in the sitcom "Samantha Who?" (2008).

Smart was killed off in the first-season finale of "Hawaii Five-0" last spring, but admitted flying into Honolulu for her occasional role as Hawaii's governor was no tropical vacation.

She said she'd arrive, be up at 4 a.m. to work, and hurry to be back on a plane to Los Angeles to be with her recently adopted toddler, Bonnie.

(Smart is married to actor Richard Gilliland, and they also have an adult son, Connor.)

That said, she loved the series' hunk factor, supplied by stars Alex O'Loughlin, Scott Caan and Daniel Dae Kim.

"All three of them!" she exclaimed. "I mean Daniel, Daniel Dae Kim. I have this friend. She's this darling, very southern, very Christian, married to a cute doctor, but she said (Smart breaks into a Southern accent), 'Oh my god! If I met him, I think I'd just have to



Actress Jean Smart poses for a portrait at during The Television Critics Association 2011 Summer Press Tour in Beverly Hills, Calif. Smart will be appearing in the upcoming television movie "William & Catherine: A Royal Romance" on the Hallmark Channel. (AP Photo/Dan Steinberg, file)

lick him. He was wearing those too-tight pants and that bulletproof vest. Oh my god! You worked with him. I'm going to have to lick you the next time I see you,'" she recounted, laughing.

On the horizon for Smart: possibly another play for the 2001 Tony nominee for the comedy "The Man Who Came to Dinner," and a small role in a Meryl Streep film.

"I never was an ingenue," Smart said. "So thank god. If I was, I mean, I can't imagine how depressing that would be right around now. So, in many ways I do feel as if in the last several years I've sort of been in my prime in terms of work and things."

"So, it's fun," Smart continued. "But I do feel fortunate, because I know there's just not much out there at all for women (Smart whispers) my age." Smart turns 60 on Sept. 9. □

5 favorite high school comedy movies ever!

CHRISTY LEMIRE

AP Movie Critic

LOS ANGELES (AP) — That magical time is upon us again: the beginning of a new school year. Time to start thinking up new ways to ditch class and blow off homework.

Here's a suggestion if you feel like procrastinating: five of my favorite comedies about high school. Don't worry, there won't be a quiz afterward:

— "Fast Times at Ridgemont High" (1982): So many classic lines. So many great songs. And such a terrific young cast of then-unknown actors, led by Sean Penn, Phoebe Cates, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Judge Reinhold and Forest Whitaker.

Those of us who grew up in the '80s probably look back on "Fast Times" with great fondness and nostalgia. In its day, though, it seemed pretty racy; it matter-of-factly depicted a character getting an abortion, after all. But it was refreshingly honest about the way teens talk and relate — how they get wasted and make mistakes — in an early demonstration of writer Cameron Crowe's excellent ear for dialogue.

— "Rushmore" (1998): Clever, sweet and crackling



Above features the most notable scene from 'Sixteen Candles,' the John Hughes movie that set off a domino effect in the teen movie scene in the 80's.

with artistic energy, this is still Wes Anderson's best film. His trademark stylistic tricks and obsession with detail felt new and fresh back then, and they served the story perfectly. Rushmore Academy's ultimate joiner, Max Fischer (Jason Schwartzman), is a bit of a lonely, odd duck with some romantic, misguided notions.

Sure, he's a compulsive liar, but it's hard not to want to emulate him: He's willing to try anything or befriend anyone. And even though he's usually the smartest guy in the room, he's never cynical. He's observant and kind. He sees the good in people — and that's how

he gets his heart broken.

— "Sixteen Candles" (1984): While "The Breakfast Club" remains my favorite John Hughes movie ever, it does get heavy and angsty as it goes along.

You might like "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" best, that would also be an acceptable answer.

But this story of a regular girl (Molly Ringwald) whose family forgets the most important birthday of her life is just rapid-fire hilarious from start to finish. It completely gets the absurdity of adolescence and accurately delineates the rigid caste system of high school without ever taking sides. □

MTV video music awards to go without host this year

BRIAN STELTER

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MTV manages to surprise viewers almost every year with its Video Music Awards, and this year it has done so before the show even starts: by electing not to have a host.

Producers for the show, which will be telecast live Sunday night, say they concluded that they simply did not need a person or persons onstage guiding the proceedings.

"In this particular year I don't think you're going to miss it," said Dave Sirulnick, an executive vice president for the channel.

To a much greater extent than other awards shows, the VMAs, as the event is known to viewers, are reimagined every year, with different awards categories, elaborate stages and equally elaborate social media stunts. Twice before, in 2004 and 2007, the show has done without a host, instead having different celebrities present awards and segue into musical acts.

The awards show is typically MTV's highest-rated telecast of the year, and it has been on the upswing in recent years, with 11.4 million viewers watching in 2010: the channel's single biggest audience since 2002. But the 2010 edition, hosted by Chelsea Handler, was widely panned, partly because it lacked the kind of must-see television moment in which MTV specializes. Admittedly, it would have been hard to top 2009, when Kanye West snatched a microphone from Taylor Swift during her acceptance speech, creating a viral video "Kanye moment."

West closed the show in 2010, alone on the stage, with the premiere of a new song, "Runaway." Sirulnick said his performance "completed the story" that had started a year earlier.

This year he expects heavy interest in Lady Gaga, the star performer who will open the show. Lady Gaga showed up last year in a dress made of raw meat, which, by the way, was preserved and is now on display at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland. □

'Colombiana' knows how silly, sexy it is

CHRISTY LEMIRE

AP Movie Critic

A brawny B-action picture with a gorgeous, graceful woman wreaking havoc at

its center: Yup, "Colombiana" is a Luc Besson movie. The director of "La Femme Nikita" and "The Fifth Element" serves as co-writer

and producer here, but this is very much a spin-off of his brand, a continuation of the kind of stereotype- and gravity-defying characters he's made his name on. "Colombiana" feels more hammy and muscular, though — but knowingly so, and that's what makes it solid, late-summer escapist fun. Zoe Saldana stars as Cataleya, who saw her parents killed in front of her when she was just a 9-year-old schoolgirl living in the slums of Bogota. Played as a child by the intense Amandla Stenberg in her film debut, she escapes by performing a dizzying series of parkour moves across rooftops and through windows before making her way to the U.S. Embassy to vomit up the microchip her

father entrusted with her. No, the film from French director Olivier Megaton ("Transporter 3") is not subtle. As the production notes so helpfully inform us, Megaton "takes his name from his birthday: The 6th of August 1965 is the 20th anniversary of the dropping of the Hiroshima A-bomb." But certainly you weren't looking for that, now, were you? Anyway, 15 years later, with the help of her Uncle Emilio (Cliff Curtis), Cataleya has become a highly efficient professional assassin, but she still seeks revenge against the drug kingpin (Beto Benites) and his right-hand man (Jordi Molla) who are responsible for her parents' deaths. The mark she leaves on her victims' bodies — a drawing of the

orchid she's named for — is a message for her childhood enemies but it also sparks the curiosity of the FBI agent who thinks he's tracking a serial killer. (Lennie James serves as the film's lone source of dignity and calm in the role.)

Over-the-top bad guys spew generically menacing lines and hot women parade around in bikinis and lingerie. The catlike Saldana herself kicks butt in little more than tank tops and short-shorts, and prowls around during a thrilling jail hit in the kind of skin-tight body suit she might have worn to do motion-capture work for "Avatar." Her character also likes to suck lollipops while she's cleaning out her guns; again, subtle. □



Zoe Saldana, star of the film "Colombiana," poses at a special screening of the film, Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2011, in West Hollywood, Calif. The film will be released in theaters on Friday, Aug. 26, 2011.

(AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)

President Rick Perry?



DAVID BROOKS

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A few weeks ago it was possible to believe that Mitt Romney would win the New Hampshire primary and cruise easily to the Republican nomination. It's harder to see that now.

There have been a slew of polls showing Gov. Rick Perry of Texas surging to double-digit national leads. He leads across demographic groups – among educated Republicans and less-educated ones, among upscale and downscale. Most impressive, he's winning over the Republican activists who pay the closest attention and wield disproportionate influence with primary voters.

A poll by the conservative political websites The Daily Caller/ConservativeHome surveys these activists. When asked this week which candidate was most electable, 46 percent named Perry, while only 20 percent named Romney. When asked who would do the best job on the economy, 27 percent said Perry and 14 percent said Romney. When asked who would do the best job controlling Washington spending, 20 percent chose Perry, 17 percent said Rep. Paul Ryan (who isn't running) and only 8 percent chose Romney. The evidence suggests that Perry's appeal will not be just a summer fad. He's benefiting from several of the trends that have fundamentally altered the Republican electorate. If the 2008 electorate were going to vote in the 2012 primaries, then Romney could handle Perry. But that electorate no longer exists. The events of 2009 and 2010 – bailouts, health care reform, the stimulus package – substantially shifted voter attitudes and nothing that has happened in 2011 has altered that shift.

Within the Republican Party, the rightward shift has been even more vehement. In 2008, roughly 63 percent of primary voters called themselves conservative, according to Public Policy Polling. Now it's roughly 73 percent. The number of moderate Republicans has withered.

The events of 2009 and 2010 also concentrated the Republican mind. It used to be that there were many themes in the Republican hymnal. Now there is only one: Government is too big, and it needs to be brought under control. It used

to be there were many threats on the horizon. Now there is only one: the interlocking oligarchy of politicians, academics, journalists, consultants and financiers who live along the Acela corridor want to rip America from its traditional moorings.

Perry is benefiting from these shifts. He does best among the most conservative voters. He has a simple and fashionable message: I will bring government under control. His persona is perfectly tuned to offend people along the Acela corridor and to rally those who oppose those people. He does very well with the alternative-reality right – those who don't believe in global warming, evolution or that Obama was born in the U.S. So, yes, it is time to take Perry seriously as a Republican nominee and even as a potential president. Until a few weeks ago, Perry trailed Obama in general election matchups. But as Perry's name recognition has increased, that has changed. He and Obama are neck and neck in a recent Gallup poll.

The question is, what are his rivals going to do about him? Right now, the Romney camp is passively hoping he implodes. That seems unlikely. The gaffes that create media frenzies are unlikely to bother Republican primary voters.

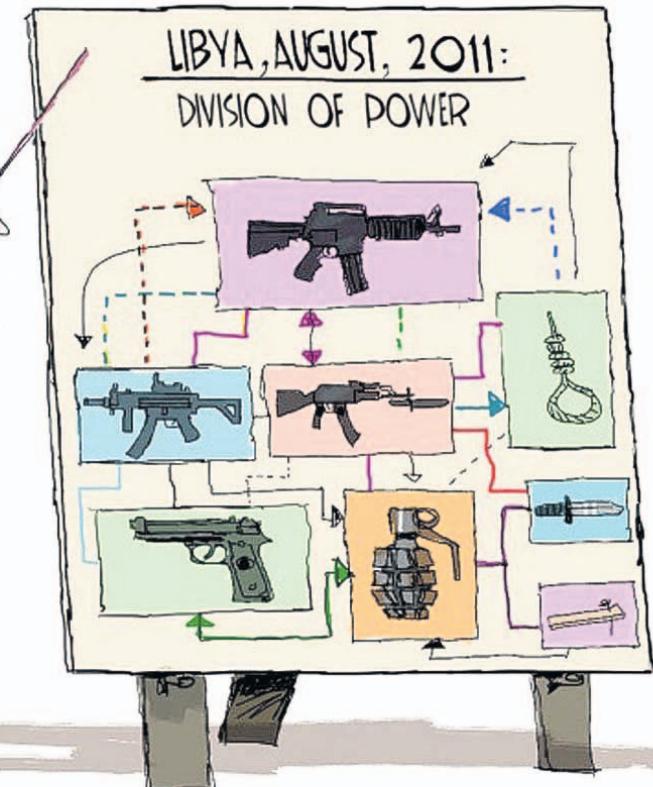
Perry's campaign message is so simple it doesn't take Einstein to keep repeating it from now until Election Day.

It's more likely that sooner or later Romney is going to have to prove his own toughness by taking Perry on directly. Two lines of attack are pretty obvious. First, Romney could accuse Perry of being the latest iteration of Tom DeLay Republicanism. On the one hand, he is ideologically slippery. The man who sounds so right wing today was the Texas chairman of the Al Gore for President campaign in 1988. The man who now vows to appoint only anti-abortion officials to relevant administration jobs endorsed Rudy Giuliani four short years ago.

On the other hand, he is unwavering in his commitment to the government-cash nexus. Even this week – amid much attention to his pay-to-play proclivities – Perry named two big donors to powerful state jobs.

The second line of attack is to shift what the campaign is about. If voters think Nancy Pelosi is the biggest threat to their children's prosperity, they will hire Perry. If they think competition from Chinese and Indian workers is the biggest threat, they will hire Romney. He's just more credible as someone who can manage economic problems, build human capital and nurture an innovation-based global economy.

Romney might be able to beat back the Perry surge. In the meantime, it's time to take Perry seriously. He could be our next president. □



Bernanke's Perry problem



PAUL KRUGMAN

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As I write this, investors around the world are anxiously awaiting Ben Bernanke's speech at the annual Fed gathering at Jackson Hole, Wyo. They want to know whether Bernanke, chairman of the Federal Reserve, will unveil new policies that might lift the U.S. economy out of what is looking more and more like a quasi-permanent state of depressed demand and high unemployment.

But I'll be shocked if Bernanke proposes anything significant – that is, anything likely to make any serious dent in unemployment or offer any serious boost to growth.

Why don't I expect much from Bernanke? In two words: Rick Perry. OK, I don't mean that Perry, the governor of Texas, is personally standing in the way of effective monetary policy. Not yet, anyway. Instead, I'm using Perry – who has famously threatened Bernanke with dire personal consequences if he pursues expansionary monetary policy before the 2012 election – as a symbol of the political intimidation that is killing our last remaining hope for economic recovery.

To see what I'm talking about, let's ask what policies the Fed actually should be pursuing right now. Obviously, the U.S. economy remains deeply depressed, and under normal conditions we would expect the Fed to pump it up by cutting interest rates.

But the interest rates the Fed normally targets – basically rates on short-term U.S. government debt – are already near zero. So what can the Fed do?

Well, in 2000 an economist named Ben Bernanke offered a number of proposals for policy at the "zero lower bound." True, the paper was focused on policy in Japan, not the United States. But America is now very much in a Japan-type economic trap, only more acute. So we learn a lot by asking why Ben Bernanke 2011 isn't taking the advice of Ben Bernanke 2000.

Back then, Bernanke suggested that the Bank of Japan could get Japan's economy moving with a variety of unconventional policies. These could include: purchases of long-term government debt (to push interest rates, and hence private borrowing costs, down); an announcement that short-term interest rates would stay near zero for an extended period, to further reduce long-term rates;

an announcement that the bank was seeking moderate inflation, "setting a target in the 3-4% range for inflation, to be maintained for a number of years," which would encourage borrowing and discourage people from hoarding cash; and "an attempt to achieve substantial depreciation of the yen," that is, to reduce the yen's value in terms of other currencies. Was Bernanke on the right track? I think so – as well I should, since his paper was partly based on my own earlier work. So why isn't the Fed pursuing the agenda its own chairman once recommended for Japan?

Part of the answer is internal dissension. Two weeks ago, the committee that sets monetary policy declared that conditions "are likely to warrant exceptionally low levels for the federal funds rate at least through mid-2013" – that is, it didn't even promise to keep

rates low, it just offered an observation about what the state of the economy is likely to be. Yet, even so, the statement faced serious internal opposition, with three inflation hawks on the committee voting against it and calling it a mistake.

The larger answer, however, is outside political pressure. Last year, the Fed actually did institute a policy of buying long-term debt, generally known as "quantitative easing" (don't ask). But it faced a political backlash out of all proportion to its modest effect on the economy, culminating in Perry's declaration that any further monetary easing before the 2012 election would be "almost treasonous," and that if Bernanke went ahead and did it, "we would treat him pretty ugly down in Texas."

Now just imagine the reaction if the Fed were to act on the other and arguably more important parts of that Bernanke 2000 agenda, targeting a higher rate of inflation and welcoming a weaker dollar. With prominent Republicans like Rep. Paul Ryan already denouncing policies that allegedly "debase the dollar," a political firestorm would be guaranteed.

So now you see why I don't expect any substantive policy announcements at Jackson Hole. Back in 2000, Bernanke accused the Bank of Japan of suffering from "self-induced paralysis"; well, now the Fed is suffering from externally induced paralysis. In effect, it has been politically intimidated into standing by while the economy stagnates. And that's a very, very bad thing.

Political opposition has crippled fiscal policy; instead of helping to create jobs, the federal government is pulling back, acting as a drag on output and employment. With the Fed also intimidated into inaction, it's hard to see any end to the ongoing economic disaster. □

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